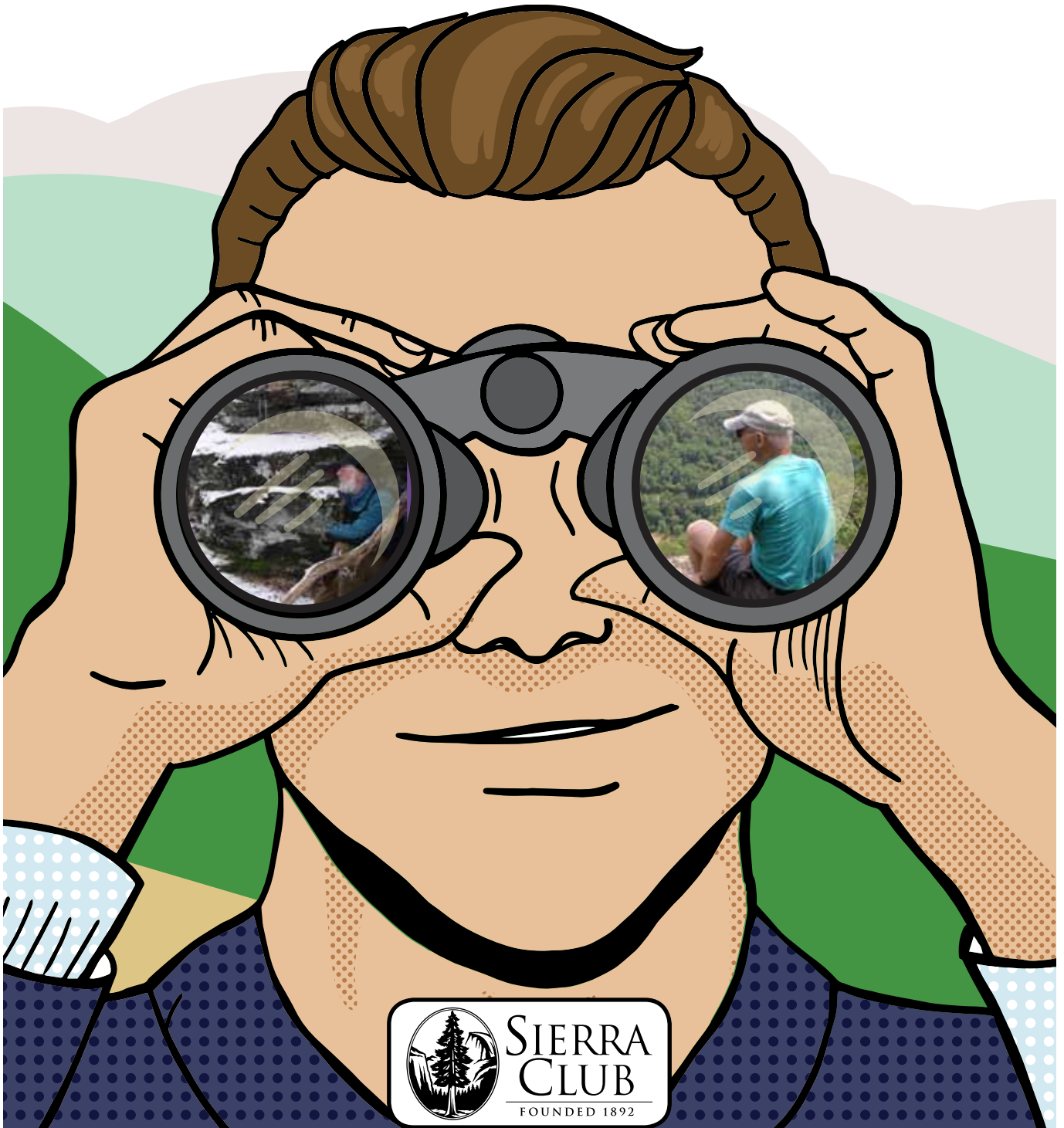


# [ the sylvanian ]

spring 2016

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)

## [ forest watch ]



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# [ from the editors ]

## forest watch could help extend our reach

This issue of *The Sylvania* takes a look at the Forest Watch, a program that is based on the theory that people who love our forests and open spaces will act to preserve and protect them. This theory has occurred to the National Park Service (NPS), which worries about the future of its 407 national parks.

While the NPS does not keep records on the ethnicity of its visitors, a recent study conducted by the Park Service found that 90 percent of its visitors are white. For some reason, the parks fail to attract people of color and as the demographics of the United States change, NPS officials are concerned that the public of the future will not care about maintaining the national park system.

We suspect that if the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources conducted a similar study, it would have the same results. Hiking and camping seem to be a white pastime. This may be one reason that the Sierra Club has had trouble diversifying its membership. Many people say they were introduced to the Club by hiking with one of its groups.

We are hoping that programs like Inspiring Connections Outdoors, the Veterans Outings and Forest Watch will find new ways to help people of color fall in love with the many wild places in Pennsylvania.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

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

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:  
[carli.timpson@sierraclub.org](mailto:carli.timpson@sierraclub.org)

Or, of course, you can just be a regular reader. Find it at:  
<http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/>

# [ the sylvanian ]

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This publication is dedicated to serving the Sierra Club Pennsylvania membership, and is a forum for internal policy discussion and debate among those truly concerned with protecting the environment. Opinions expressed herein are the personal opinions of their authors and may or may not reflect Sierra Club policy.

Contributor deadlines are June 15 (Summer issue), September 15 (Fall issue), and December 15 (Winter issue), March 15 (Spring issue). 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.

The Sierra Club seeks to become a fully realized multicultural organization and is working to make the systemic changes required to welcome, respect, support, and value any individual or group to fully participate.

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## [ forest watch ]

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## [ on the cover ]

We are watching the forest. In the Sierra Club sense, we explore, enjoy, and protect our natural bounty. Binoculars let us see where we have been and where we are headed: Our Forest, and in Nautical terms, Our Watch.

For this issue of *The Sylvanian* we have added full color in an effort to emphasize the spectacular nature of Penn's Woods.

*To send photos by email:*  
wendi.taylor@verizon.net or  
pcoleman19@tampabay.rr.com

*To mail photos: Sylvanian, Sierra Club - PA Chapter, PO Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108*

next deadline: June 15

Send articles & photographs to: wendi.taylor@verizon.net or pcoleman19@tampabay.rr.com

## chapter directory

See Page 23. To view the complete directory, go to: <http://pennsylvanian.sierraclub.org> and select "Volunteer Resources." The password is: VolunteersRule

# [ the view from harrisburg ]

by Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director

## SPRING HAS SPRUNG, BUT WILL THERE BE A THAW IN THE ICY STATE BUDGET PROCESS?

As citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, each of us is expected to act in accordance with the law and to proudly uphold our state Constitution - and we do it with honor. We also elect officials to represent us in the state General Assembly, and in doing so we expect the same of them - to craft laws that are consistent with the Constitution of the Commonwealth and in the best interest of we, the people of Pennsylvania. As I reflect on the past year in Harrisburg, I fear that this directive is being eroded by empty rhetoric and industry influence; looking forward, it is incumbent upon us to hold our elected officials to their sworn duty - their duty to the people.

And of all that we expect from the legislature, you would think that the simplest part would be crafting laws that are consistent with the Pennsylvania Constitution. However, in each budget season for



the past several years the legislature has pushed the limit of that promise, leading up to fight over the 2015-2016 Fiscal Code bill - HB 1327 - that passed the legislature on March 16, 2016. This bill contained several harmful provisions that had nothing to do with implementing the state budget or making specific appropriations, but were simply attacks on environmental policies that had the overwhelming support of the public -

implementation of the Clean Power Plan and final adoption of the Chapter 78 oil and gas regulations.

Since 2006, following a decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, the General Assembly has passed a bill amending the Fiscal Code in order to implement the budget, rather than putting substantive language into the General Appropriation Act. The practical result of using the Fiscal Code in this way has been to use that legislation as a bargaining ground and insert language into the bill that is unrelated to implementation of the budget but achieves an otherwise unresolved legislative issue from the session; the Fiscal Code can be - and in fact has been - used as a vehicle for improperly addressing specific issues that otherwise may not have passed the full legislature.

Not only is this practice contrary to the public good, it rests on shaky constitutional grounds. For example, as referenced above, the legislature included harmful and inappropriate provisions in the Fiscal Code bill this session concerning oil and gas regulations. "How can a budget bill abrogate environmental regulations?" you may be asking. The short answer is that it may not. Article III, Section 3 of the State Constitution limits the subject matter of statutes implementing Pennsylvania's budget to spending matters, and the HB 1327 provisions pertaining to the Chapter 78 regulations extend beyond the bound of that constitutional limitation.

This unconstitutional language would upend public policies that are the result of rigorous public comment processes. Throughout the Chapter 78 process, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) held 12 public hearings and two written comment periods. During the 2014 comment period alone, the DEP received more than 24,000 comments which overwhelmingly supported stronger regulations for both conven-

tional and unconventional oil and gas drilling operations.

Thankfully, after months of advocacy from Sierra Club members and members of other groups throughout the state, on March 25th Governor Wolf made the right decision and elected to veto HB 1327. Without the Governor's veto, HB 1327 would have endangered the Commonwealth's land and water resources, harmed public health and our communities - and would have thrown away thousands of hours of work and millions of dollars the state has spent developing new standards during the last three years.

Some believe that this decision by the Governor to veto HB 1327 (even though he allowed the budget bill itself to become law) is a harbinger of more difficulty to come in the 2016-2017 budget process, but I believe that he is simply standing up and doing the job he swore an oath to do - upholding the PA Constitution and acting in accordance with the best interest of the people. I hope the legislature will take their oaths as seriously during this next round of negotiations surrounding the state budget.

# water quality not just Flint's problem

by Veronica Coptis

The tragic failure to protect communities in Flint, Michigan, has people throughout the country wondering if they can trust their water supply. The bad news, however, is that like Flint, many communities across the United States have been fighting for access to safe and clean water for a long time.

The first step needed in order to effectively protect our water sources is to stop treating our rivers as a dilution source for pollution from coal, gas, chemical industries, and big agriculture.

In Pennsylvania, compromised water sources are nothing new. Where I am from in Southwestern Pennsylvania, many private water sources have been destroyed by the fracking and mining industries; these lost water supplies often go unreported to the public as a result of legal settlements and nondisclosure agreements. At the same time, many public water supplies along the Monongahela River are struggling to meet EPA drinking water standards due to increased bromides and other pollutants in our river - a result of using our waterways to receive and dilute industry pollution.

But if industries are polluting clean water for corporate profit, then who is supposed to be reining them in? Unfortunately, regulators at many levels of government have sided time and

time again with private interests and we cannot trust them to look out for us. It is up to us to hold them accountable and to make sure no more communities have to suffer like this again.

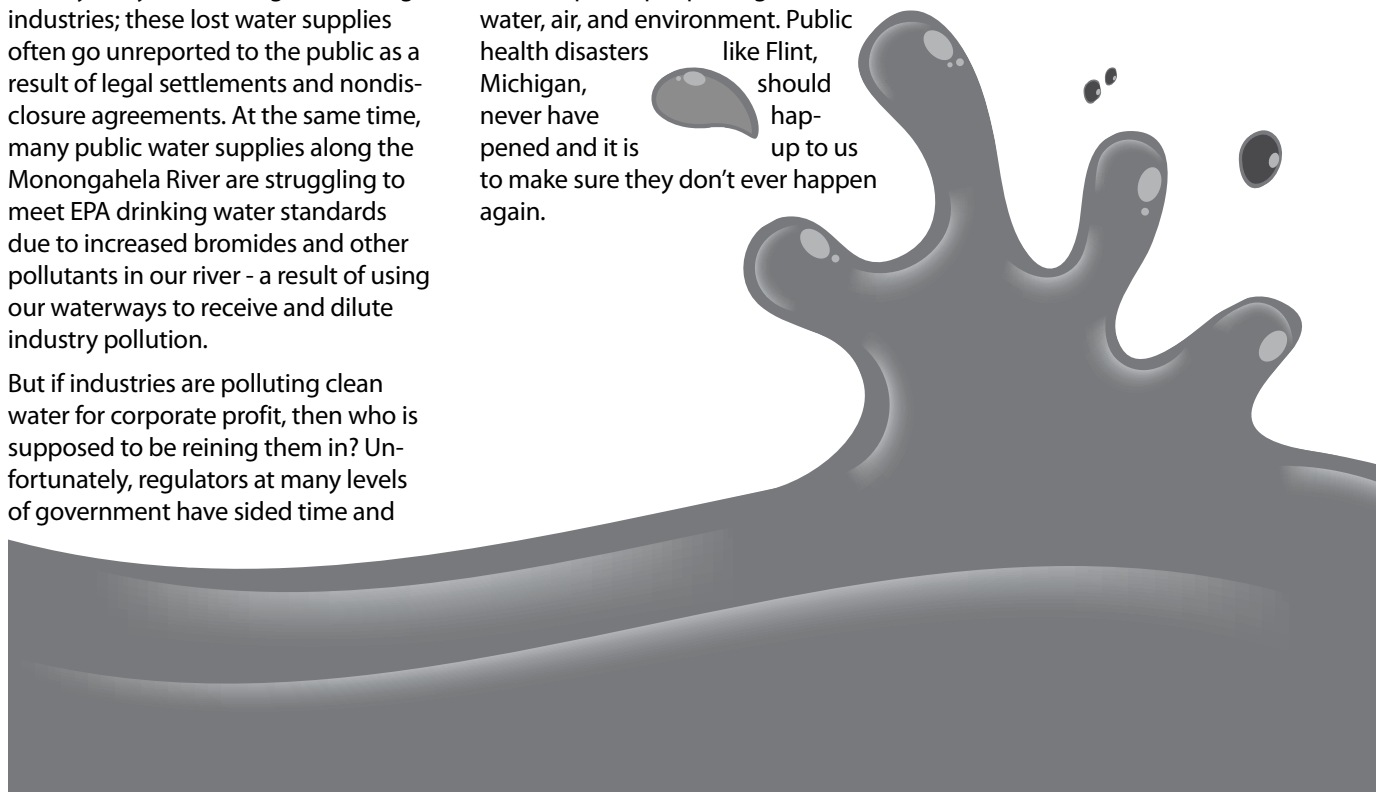
However, the truth is that the government didn't fail Flint. We failed Flint by not speaking out and fighting for our clean water here and for the rights of everyone everywhere who do not have access to clean water.

In Pennsylvania, the Environmental Rights Amendment in our state constitution declares that our government has a responsibility to protect our water, air, and environment but government is failing the people of Pennsylvania. All [state] governments, not just the one we have in Pennsylvania, should uphold people's right to clean water, air, and environment. Public health disasters like Flint, Michigan, should never have happened and it is up to us to make sure they don't ever happen again.

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public health disasters like Flint, Michigan, should never have happened and it is up to us to make sure they don't ever again.

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# [ from the <sup>New</sup> chapter chair ]

Pennsylvania Sierra Club Members,

I am Veronica Coptis, your newly elected Chapter Chair. I grew up and still live in Greene County, the southwestern most county in the state. I am married and my husband and I are expecting our first child in August. We have a loving lab mix and many chickens with their own unique personalities. I work as the Deputy Director with the Center for Coal-field Justice, fighting extraction on the frontlines. Over the past few years, I have been engaged with the Sierra Club and have been impressed by the people I have met.

It has been so exciting in these past few months that I have been your new Chapter Chair. Even though I live in the southwestern corner of the state, I have enjoyed reading your thoughts in emails and I even got to attend a meeting with the Erie Group. For the first time, I got to participate in calls with the PA State Senate Candidates as the chapter helps decide on an endorsement. I have learned that all of the groups are doing such inspiring work to make their communities a better place. We have such talented and experienced leaders in the chapter.

Growing up in an environmental justice community that was severely impacted by longwall mining and now being an expectant mother surrounding by fracking wells, I am worried about my health, my family's health, and the impact on our whole community. I am excited to work with other Sierra Club members to fight climate change by keeping these dirty fossil fuels in the ground. During my time as chair, I am committed to making our chapter more inclusive, diverse, and accessible to all folks who are concerned about their environment, health and communities.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with your concerns, thoughts, or to just chat about life. I will be helping to organize and will be attending our annual outing from June 24-26 at Raccoon Creek State Park just outside of Pittsburgh, so it is great time to see the part of the state I come from and will give me a chance to get to know you better and what motivates you to do this work.

- Veronica Coptis



Veronica is pictured with her husband, Don Fike, and her dog, Patti, while hiking at Spruce Knob, WV.

# [ coleman's lantern ]

## bob ache

by Phil Coleman

There is a small forest adjacent to the Forbes State Forest District office in Ligonier named the Bob Ache Memorial Forest. If you ask young foresters today who Bob Ache was, they will either give you a blank stare or say, "Some guy they named a forest after." You have to be an old guy to remember Ache. He was the Forbes State Forest district forester back when the state designated Quebec Run Area as a wilderness area.

I met him then when the Allegheny Group was advocating for wilderness designation. We met with him to discuss hiking trails. I don't remember exactly which of us were there, but I recall Peter Wray, Dick Pratt, and, I think, Bruce Sundquist -- all of us old guys now. Ache would have been an old guy as well, but he died suddenly over 30 years ago. We lost a good and sincere wilderness advocate when he died.

I kept in touch with Ache back then and helped him relocate a Quebec Run trail on one occasion. I also called on him once when someone had dumped what appeared to be a small truckload of trash in the forest.

When Ache learned of the dumping, he went there and dug through the trash until he found a disposed envelope that identified the dumper. He called the man and gave him 48 hours to clean up his mess. The man complied.

We didn't always agree with Ache. We wanted more wilderness protection than he was willing or able to give. But he was always hands-on. He made himself available throughout the Forbes District.

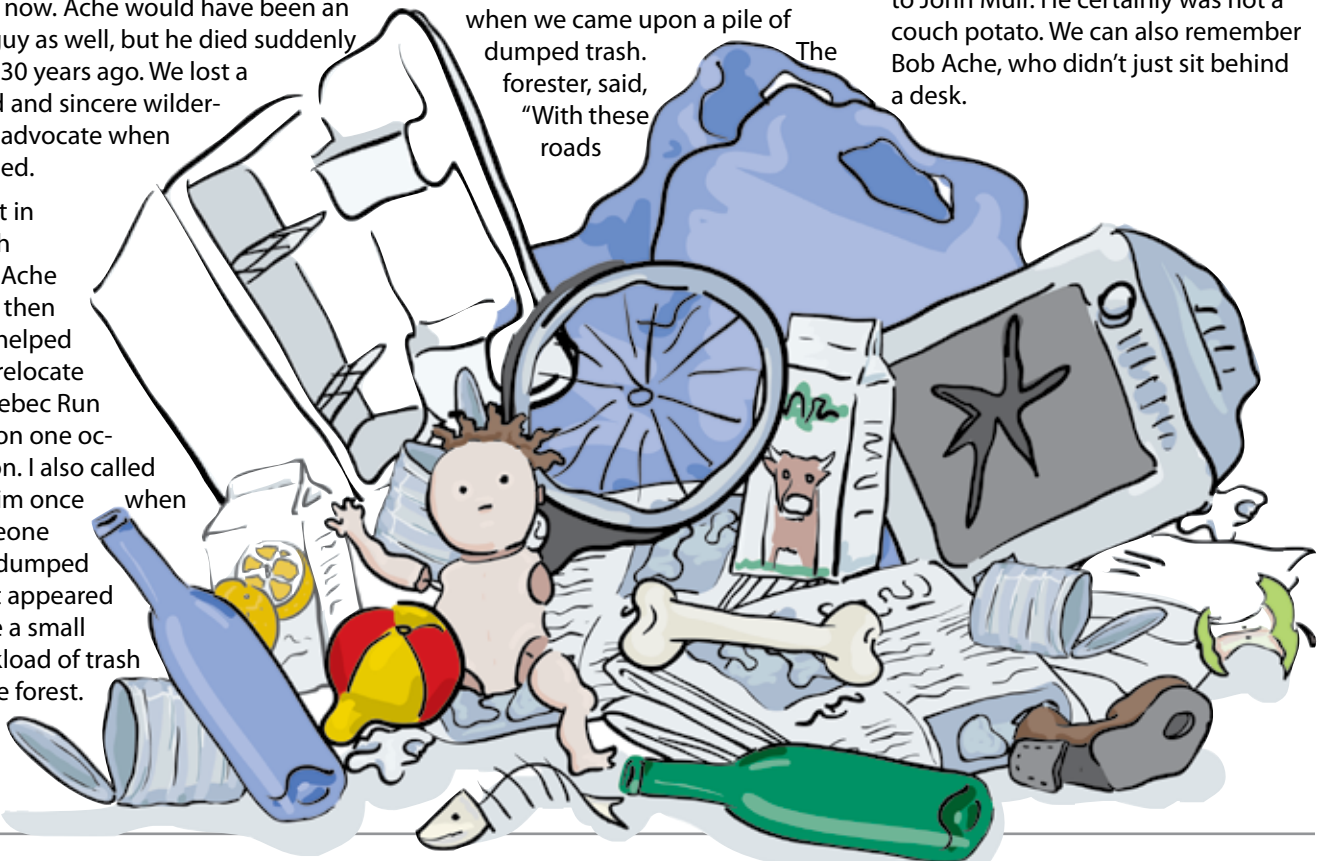
I had an experience a few years later in Allegheny National Forest, where the forest service owns the surface but oil companies own most of the mineral rights. I was on a tour of oil access roads with a national forester when we came upon a pile of dumped trash. The forester said, "With these roads

here, we can't keep this from happening."

I pulled a Bob Ache. I went over to the trash and found a piece of windshield with an inspection sticker on it. "Why don't you check this guy out?" He took the inspection sticker and vowed he would follow through.

I'm not sure that Pennsylvania foresters are outgoing enough anymore. And I'm not sure that enough Club members get sufficiently involved. The Forest Watch effort you will find described in this issue of *The Sylvanian* is one way all members can show that their caring transcends the couch.

We can show our caring as a tribute to John Muir. He certainly was not a couch potato. We can also remember Bob Ache, who didn't just sit behind a desk.



## [ letter to the editor ]

I read your latest "Coleman's Lantern" and felt compelled to send you a note. I cannot imagine a United States where people would comply with rationing as a matter of patriotism, as you described from your memories as a child during WW II. I am probably less than half your age, a "Gen-X'er" as they call us, right on the edge of being a Millennial. I have grown up in a world of ever-growing consumerism, flooded with ads from every direction telling us to be discontent with what we have, because there's always something better that will somehow make us better - better looking, thinner, more successful, more efficient. We need to have more, more, more so we can do less, less, less. It does often feel as though we live in a plastic world of thoughtless excess, the Disney World as you aptly described made of plastic, and driven by plastic, the plastic cards in our wallets that both enable us and enslave us.

That said, I have to take issue with your article. Being that our society is in the state it's in, what good does it do us to complain, and not offer any solution, anything positive, any way of combating this cross generational issue? I worked for a boss that described complaining without offering solutions as "dropping dead cats." Is it truly so hopeless, that there is no point in bringing up the positives, the progress, the things we have done that are good, and combat the image of Americans as glutinous consumers on the way to ruin and taking the world down with us?

I believe it is the responsibility of any of us that are "awake" to the realities of what people are doing to the climate, the environment, our wildlife and our one and only world, to sell hope for the future harder than it's ever been sold before, because it's more important than it's ever been before to believe in a better world and work to make that belief into a reality. You have a platform and a voice and a lifetime of experiences to share - I would hope that you can use your wonderful powers for the good, and both enlighten and inspire us all to "be the change we want to see in the world," instead of "dropping dead cats." After all, if you are going to call your column "Coleman's Lantern," you should offer some light. It is a very dark world indeed without hope for the future.

Thank you for your time and your hard work,

Sarah Jameson  
Shamokin, PA



## run for the money

About 270 runners and hikers registered for the Sierra Club-Lancaster Group's **6th Annual Polar Bear 5K** (3.1 miles) Trail Run/Hike, held on Jan. 16 in scenic Lancaster County Central Park. In addition, approximately 65 very well-behaved dogs (mostly on leashes) ran or walked with their masters. The Lancaster Group's major fundraiser, the race **raised approximately \$4,000** -- which will be used to support the Group's new "green project" grant program, as well as other environmental-related activities and initiatives offered throughout the year.



*Al Richardson of the Sierra Club' Lake Erie Group marches in the annual Martin Luther King Jr. celebration in Erie this past January.*

[ forest watch ]

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# introduction: forest watch

by Tom Torres

Welcome to the special Forest Watch edition of The Sylvanian.

For many of you, it's probably been several months since you've heard from me. Some of you, might be hearing from me for the first time. And for the rest of you — well, you probably know where this is going. My name is Tom Torres and I am the Conservation Program Coordinator for the Forest Watch. I have spent the past ten months working with members Chapter-wide to build something we've been calling the Forest Watch.

Through this new program, our members have planned and led conservation outings all across the state. We have taken groups of people into the hollows of Southwestern Pennsylvania to see the impacts of the longwall mining and natural gas industry. Our members have rambled through state forests in search of lost oil and gas wells while others have toured the Loyalsock State Forest to see the beauty of — and the threats to — some of the Commonwealth's largest unfragmented forests.

However, Forest Watch is not just a conservation outings program; it is an opportunity for our members to speak up in defense of our public lands. During the comment period for the

State Forest Resource Management Plan, members all across the Chapter told the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources how they should manage our state forests. Members in Southwestern Pennsylvania gave comment at a regional Environmental Protection Agency hearing in support of the first major changes to federal-level mining regulations in decades. Our members not only explore and enjoy; they also protect.

For now, read on to hear from some of our members — members that have led and participated in Forest Watch conservation outings — and learn how to get involved.

The goal of the Forest Watch is to empower Sierra Club members to become the eyes

and ears of the forest. We are organizing a series of conservation outings throughout the state designed to introduce participants to areas currently impacted or under threat by coal, gas, and oil development and connect them to advocacy opportunities to speak up for our public lands. To learn more, go to: [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/forestwatch](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/forestwatch)

**Forest Watch... is an opportunity for our members to speak up in defense of our public lands**



## forest watch – a vision for protecting public lands

by Gary Thornbloom

Our public lands in Pennsylvania consist primarily of forested land: 2.2 million acres of State Forest Land; 1.5 million acres of State Game Land; 500,000 acres of National Forest (Allegheny); and 283,000 acres of State Park Land. Our forested landscape provides critical habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for millions of people -- a huge economic driver for Pennsylvania. Our forested land, especially the old growth stands, help capture carbon and purify our waters. This landscape is borrowed by us and its future integrity -- the legacy we leave for the future -- depends upon how we interact with it today. It is critical that we engage our activists to protect public lands.

A Forest Watch Network would be the eyes, and perhaps most importantly the voice of the forest. A Forest Watch Network could be the answer to the question: Who speaks for the forest?

As eyes we learn to recognize what a healthy forest looks like. When we know what a healthy forest looks like, it will become easy to see what threats and disease look like. As eyes of the forest, we will know and have a better understanding of the forest. As a voice we would reach out to the people of Pennsylvania to make them aware of the benefits of public lands. We would also speak for the forest when its integrity and health

is threatened and bear witness to threats and harms perpetuated against the forest. The story of health, as well as of disease and threats, is present in the forest. We will put into words what the forest cannot. We will tell the story with words and images.



People with a wide range of interests all play a role in our forests. Those interested in exploring and enjoying: families, fishermen, hunters, bird watchers, hikers, cross country skiers, paddlers, and photographers; and those interested in protecting: current and future activists.

Through our Forest Watch conservation outings, participants have seen the impacts of coal, oil, and natural gas extraction on our public lands and over the past nine months, we have partnered

with organizations and members across the state to lay the groundwork for what could become a Forest Watch Network.

If you are interested in helping us explore, enjoy, and (most importantly) protect our public lands, please contact me at [bearknob@verizon.net](mailto:bearknob@verizon.net). With your

interests and your skills, we can build this network and give our forests a voice.

*Gary Thornbloom, a member of the Moshannon Group, is co-chair of the Public Lands Committee and one of the architects of the Forest Watch Campaign.*

[ forest watch ]



## Ryerson State Park – a cautionary tale

by Patricia DeMarco

Longwall mining from the Bailey Mine Complex has stamped its mark on the land in Greene County. People here cling with fatalistic resolve to an industry and a way of life that consumes and destroys the land in its wake, leaving a three thousand acre permanent scar on the green hills, “dewatering” streams and lakes, and displacing communities with Coal Refuse Disposal Areas. Formerly verdant valley towns now are filled or destined to be filled with rock and coal waste slurry from processing facilities.



Ryerson Station State Park has lost its Duke Lake from mine subsidence that destabilized the dam.

Now the tributary of Dunkard Creek North Fork, which offers trout fishing and a high quality stream habitat, in the park is threatened by further permitted longwall mining moving into this area under the park that is likely to “dewater” the creek.

Preserving natural habitat as well as resources that can support a diversified economy and better quality of life is important in restoring a more resilient and sustainable community.



### A VALLEY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COAL REFUSE DISPOSAL AREA

My heart aches for the green hills and for the people and other living creatures tied to this coal mining process by tradition and the accident of birth into an area undermined with seams of fossil deposits.

Beautiful green valleys are targeted to be filled with Coal Refuse Disposal Areas.

### COAL REFUSE LEAVES THE AEA SPOILED AND POISONED.

As we burn coal to power the present, we are consuming the past and poisoning the future. We can and must move to a more sustainable energy system. The transition to a fossil-free energy future must attend to the needs of the communities, workers and people. It must attend to restoring the land.

Graves of the people who lived in this valley for years as cattle farmers and dairy farmers in Graysville, Pennsylvania face the hills once farmed and grazed.

The same graveyard is overshadowed by the Bailey Mine Coal Prep Complex, a 100- square-mile operation for the largest longwall mine in the world.

The land and the people here deserve a better fate.

For more information about this issue, see The Center for Coalfield Justice <http://coalfieldjustice.org/>

# Baily Mine Coal Prep Complex



*Photos taken by Patricia DeMarco on a field trip with the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club with the Center for Coalfield Justice on August 15, 2015.*

[ forest watch ]

# MISSING

## 200,000 oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania



### from the field: orphaned and abandoned gas wells

By David Platt

A few weeks ago, I attended an event hosted by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club and Marcellus Matters, an National Science Foundation funded group out of Penn State that focuses on science education. We spent the afternoon stumbling around public game lands but we weren't hunting for deer. What were we in search of? We were looking for Pennsylvania's missing orphaned and abandoned gas wells.

According to an estimate from the Independent Petroleum Association of Amer-

ica, there are 200,000 oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania that undocumented. Out of these, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has located about 12,000 wells. There are potentially thousands of undocumented wells leaking harmful chemicals into the air and into Pennsylvania streams and groundwater. We urgently need people to help find and document these wells.

The industry has been drilling oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania since 1859, when Colonel Edwin Drake struck oil in Titusville. For the first century of drill-

ing, there was practically no regulation or oversight of these operations. There is no comprehensive map or database of these wells. When a well failed to bring enough petroleum to the surface to make it profitable, it was unceremoniously abandoned. Sometimes these wells were plugged to keep gas and oil from leaking out. But many of these "plugs" have failed over the decades. Now, the Sierra Club is partnering with Penn State's Marcellus Matters to help locate and document these missing wells.

Last month, as part of the Forest Watch



the rusty monument to see if there was any concrete support around the steel pipes. This monument was found less than 20 yards away from Camp Run.

The second well was clearly visible from the road and located near Rock Run. (Coordinates: 41°18'51.4"N 77°56'55.7"W). There was a large, wooden oil or gas derrick on the ground next to it. The monument had some kind of gas leaking from the top and it smelled terrible!

As bad as these wells were, however, the third well was by far the scariest! It had water pouring from its monument like a bathtub spigot. This well created its own stream that flowed directly into Cooks Run. (Coordinates: 41°20'42.2"N 77°57'07.2"W). Not only was the smell absolutely noxious, the

water pouring out created a petroleum sheen. How long has pollution from this well been flowing into Cooks Run? No one knows—until it was reported to DEP, nobody knew it was here.

If you enjoy our state forests and game lands, then contact Tom Torres ([tom.torres@sierraclub.org](mailto:tom.torres@sierraclub.org)) or the folks at Marcellus Matters (<http://marcellus-matters.psu.edu/>) to participate in future outings in your area. I understand not everyone can do this but you can at least take the opportunity to tell the state of Pennsylvania to clean up and protect our public lands.

Campaign, a group of Sierra Club volunteers gathered in Williamsport where Nooreen Meghani and Terry Noll of Penn State's Marcellus Matters program showed us how to locate and document these missing gas wells. Once the wells are documented, this information is then sent off to the DEP. We started by reviewing old US Geographic Survey maps of Pennsylvania. These maps, initially drawn up in the 1940s and revised in the 1970s, show tiny circles where oil and gas wells are located and thin lines to show pipelines. But, as we discovered, these maps are only a starting point because most wells never made it onto these maps. Other sources of information used to locate these wells include county records and satellite data. We then headed to the Sproul State Forest near Lock Haven to find three previously unknown wells.

The first well was found by a small pond near Camp Run (Coordinates: 41.310520°, -77.964154°). We inspected

A few days after the outing, I gave public comment at the DCNR Bureau of Forestry's hearing on the proposed State Forest Resource Management Plan. This plan guides the Bureau in managing our state forests and was an important opportunity to speak up in defense of our public lands. At the hearing, I talked about the orphaned and abandoned gas wells that I saw on our outing and spoke out against future gas development on public lands.

To check out maps of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells in Pennsylvania visit: <http://www.marcellusmatters.psu.edu/orphans/map..>



[ forest watch ]

# [ explore enjoy...pennsylvania ]

## forest watch outing to state game land 103: orphaned gas well, history, and natural history

by Gary Thornbloom

Pennsylvania's public lands are predominantly forested, and Forest Watch Outings are a way into those forests. In February sixteen hikers participated in the first Forest Watch Outing in 2016. The walk into State Game Land 103 (Centre County near Julian, PA) began on a slush covered grassy woods road from the past.

We began by walking along a field that was planted for wildlife. Turkey and what may have been bear tracks were fading in the melting snow. Trees along the edge of the road had been cut down and left laying. This provided food and browse for wildlife. Stump sprouts would provide more browse in a different season. The tangle of tree tops with thorny canes that had pushed up throughout branches provided wildlife cover.

Our drop into Wallace Run paralleled Grindstone Gap. We were easing our way down and would eventually be about 1000 feet below the knobs adjacent to our path and the rim above Wallace Run that stretched in front of us.

As we approached the bottom of the hollow a track veered away from ours and to the left following the contour of the mountain side. This was either part of the logging or fishing club that were a presence in the last century. Stone bridge abutments and rotting railroad ties were visible along that track.

One of our destinations was at the mouth of the hollow as it met Wallace Run. A pool of water, the faint outline of well casing, occasional bubbles and the faint fleeting odor of rotten eggs was our destination. This was a wild cat gas well that was drilled about eighty years ago. The well is one of the tens of thousands of orphaned and abandoned oil and gas wells

scattered throughout Pennsylvania.

This well has likely been leaking methane, a powerful greenhouse gas, for decades. A local man told me about visiting this site in the 1950's. At the time there was a shack over the wellhead, and they, young boys, would close the door, let the gas build up, and light it to see if they could blow the door open.

We talked about this legacy from past drilling and about how widespread the problem is. It was an easy lesson to grasp as our group shifted positions to better view the gas bubbles and smell the odor.

After crossing the stream in Grindstone Gap we climbed the steep bank on the far side. At the top we encountered the first of several "bear beech trees" — beech trees scarred by bear claws. Some of the imprints left many years ago were perfect paw prints.

Further along the mountainside we came to stone steps, a relic from days of widespread government programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps. In the 1930's and 40's the federal government funded programs for young men who were out of work. CCC camps throughout Pennsylvania built bridges, trails, and cabins in many of our State Parks. Older men, down on their luck and also out of work, were in other programs which built roads and other public works.

At the top of the steps we talked about the CCC programs, and works throughout our public lands. And the stone steps? They were built by a crew of older men who lived in a camp at the top of the hollow. The steps made it easier to access a small pool they had built in Wallace Run to cool off in on hot summer days.



Back across Grindstone Gap we retraced our path most of the way up the hollow. We dropped back into the hollow to take a look at some grindstones. Grindstones were common throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. Used in mills, as well as on farms, you can see them today standing by driveways and homes throughout rural Pennsylvania.

The arc of blanks in the stone showed us where grindstones, three high, hand been removed. The outline of a grindstone that was never removed remains in the bedrock of the stream. Slices of broken grindstones are scattered along the stream. The edge of two grindstones with the square cut in their centers lay underwater.

Once you become aware of what to look for, there is a lot of history and natural history in plain view. You also do not have to look too hard to encounter the past legacy of the heavy hand of industrial impacts throughout the landscape. Forest Watch Outings give us a better understanding of the forests that make up our public lands. Join us on upcoming Forest Watch Outings!



## need help paying for college?

**A**pply for Wyona Coleman Scholarship. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club awards one or two \$1,000 scholarships each year in honor of Wyona Coleman.

The scholarship is open to all Pennsylvania residents who are seniors in high school, in addition to those already accepted or enrolled in college.

The Wyona Coleman Scholarship Fund is a memorial to Sierra Club member Wyona Coleman, who was a founding member of both her local group and the Pennsylvania Chapter. Coleman was a longtime champion of coalfield residents victimized by unregulated strip mining, and was so instrumental in advocating for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, that she was invited to the White House to witness President Jimmy Carter sign the bill into law.

Applications must include: (1) a letter of application, (2) the student's academic record, (3) two letters of support -- at least one from a community group in which the applicant

has done volunteer work, and (4) a 300-word essay on how the student intends use his or her education to protect the environment. The letter of application should include some basic biographical information about the student and attest to the student's financial need. Each essay must include a heading with the applicant's name, home mailing address, email, and phone number.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic potential and financial need.

Those awarded the scholarship will be required to provide their Social Security Numbers and the name and address of the institution they will be attending.

Applications are due June 30, 2016, and should be submitted electronically to:

[pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org)  
Please place the word "Scholarship" in the subject line. The scholarships will be awarded July 15, 2016.



Wyona Coleman

### answers to crossword puzzle

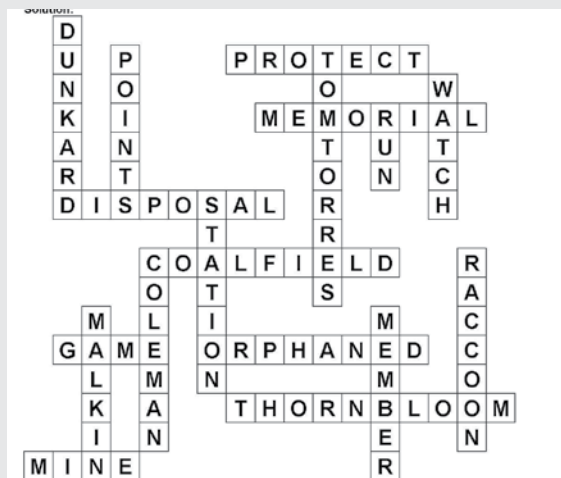
(from page 24)

#### Across

- 3 Protect
- 6 Memorial
- 8 Disposal
- 10 Coalfield
- 14 Game
- 15 Orphaned
- 16 Thornbloom
- 17 Mine

#### Down

- 1 Dunkard
- 2 Points
- 4 Tom Torres
- 5 Watch
- 7 Run
- 9 Station
- 10 Coleman
- 11 Raccoon
- 12 Malkin
- 13 Member



# [ the gadfly ]

## global heating - first, talk the truth

by Mort Malkin

Establishment environmentalists tell us: change your light bulbs to energy saving compact fluorescents; turn down the thermostat three degrees in winter and raise it three degrees in summer; and drive three mph slower on the highway and use public transit in town ... As if the warming of the planet is all our fault. How many degrees of guilt shall we have?

Gadfly's plan is to lay blame where deserved. First, however, we must get down to the basics of language so we may make the politicos feel the heat. Global "Warming" makes it sound like we all will enjoy more glorious weather, and increase jobs in the bargain (with the devil?). "We," of course won't include the victims of floods in the upper Midwest, or the victims of wildfires in Colorado and Arizona, or ranchers in Texas or farmers in California suffering from record droughts, or the victims of Hurricane Katrina or Superstorm Sandy ... So, for them and the rest of us who believe the reports of 99% of climate scientists — it will be Global Heating or Overheating.

Next on the linguistic agenda is Climate "Change." Actually, Climate Change is already accepted as reality by most folks, unless their names are James Inhofe (Oklahoma) or Rick Perry (Texas). Climate Change, moreover, does not always seem so terrible. Most of us would trade in rainy, dreary days for sunshine. But,

a few scientists — just a few — who are facing reality are starting to call it Climate Chaos. Perhaps, you would prefer Climate Collapse or Cacophony or Calamity or Catastrophe."

The final term to correct is called the Tipping Point. There are actually several climate mechanisms with feedback loops which can form self-perpetuating cycles. A Tipping Point occurs when the cycle becomes a chain reaction of overheating.

When all the various Tipping Points average up to a Point of No Return, nothing we do will be able to stop the

gantic smoothie during summer months. The amount of methane released is now measured in billions of tons per year, which will increase global temperatures, which in turn will melt more permafrost ... And the carousel goes round.

What to do about Global Heating and Climate Cacophony will be worth another Gadfly essay; but of the hundred or more things we all can do, the first three are: call up our elected politicians, e-mail our elected politicians, and write real letters to our elected politicians. Tell them the true terminology is Global Heating and Climate Chaos, and teach

them about the Point of No Return. After all, 70 percent of all emissions are caused by the transportation sector and power plants, over which they have a major say.

... a few scientists — just a few — who are facing reality are starting to call it Climate Chaos.

progression. Some climatologists tell us we have just three to five years before it's game over. Scary! And what ostrich politician would want to scare the public? (No, that's not fair to the ostriches.)

To understand the reality of tipping points, let us cite but one example of some nine or ten that are already well under way: the gas methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) which is 25 times as potent as CO<sub>2</sub> in greenhouse effect. Until recently, we didn't have to worry. The 1,800 gigatons of methane held in Arctic soils (according to US Geological Survey) had been kept locked up in permafrost. But, that was before the permafrost became a gi-

Global Heating is our fault only in electing people who are in the pay of Exxon, Chevron, and Halliburton.

*Mort can be contacted at: [gadflysmiling@yahoo.com](mailto:gadflysmiling@yahoo.com)*

## meet Nellis Kennedy-Howard - national sierra club office



**A**fter an extensive search and competitive process, Allison Chin and I are pleased to announce that Nellis Kennedy-Howard has agreed to serve as Sierra Club's first ever Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Nellis is deeply committed to equity and justice and envisions a path for Sierra Club to become an anti-racist, anti-oppressive organization -- a change that she says will not happen overnight and will require the efforts of everyone in Sierra Club including staff, volunteers and members.

As Director of DEI, Nellis will work

closely with the executive team and board of directors to drive implementation of the Multi-Year DEI plan and its goals associated with organizational culture and inclusion; ongoing education, learning, training and skills development, and creating a foundation of justice and equity. She will help design and implement strategies to increase the organization's diversity, promote equity through its brand, messaging and programs, and create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all staff, volunteers and allies.

Her experiences as the Beyond Coal

Campaign's Senior Representative for the Southwest and a member of the Staff Diversity Team provide a solid foundation for her to succeed in this new role. She also has strong credentials as an attorney with certificates in Federal Indian Law and Natural Resources Law. A proud citizen of the Navajo Nation, Nellis has advocated for protection of tribal communities from toxic industries and exploitation including spending four years as executive director of the national Native environmental organization Honor the Earth, working alongside Winona LaDuke.

Nellis told us that she appreciates the supportive Sierra Club staff and volunteers who have been leading the transformation to become a multicultural organization which welcomes and values people from all backgrounds and walks of life. Among other key milestones, she and her wife Suzanne were proud to see Sierra Club celebrate the Supreme Court's same-sex marriage ruling last year. Along with the Board of Director's support of the Multi-Year DEI plan with a dedicated budget, we believe that Nellis' hire marks another monumental milestone for our organization.

We are confident that Nellis will do a phenomenal job leading the way with her courageous spirit, contagious passion and drive for ambitious results. Please join us in congratulating Nellis now that she has accepted the role, supporting her efforts when she starts officially on March 16, and for those in the Bay Area, welcoming her to our Oakland headquarters when she relocates in July.



# Annual Member Outing

## June 24- 26 / Raccoon Creek State Park

Please join us for a family-friendly weekend filled with activities designed to help you explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the earth! Stay with us for the weekend in Raccoon Creek’s group cabins and participate in a wide range of recreational activities, including our feature program “Fracking in the Coalfields”; sponsored by the Center for Coalfield Justice. Want to know the best part? It’s FREE. Just bring your own food. Reservations are limited – secure your spot today!

**Name**

.....

**Phone**

.....

**Address**

.....

.....

**Number of Attendees**

.....

**What types of activities or programs would you like see offered at the outing?**

**Email**

.....

.....

.....

Attendees will also be able to join the celebration to honor the recipients of our annual Stargazer Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Star Award recipients are Sierra Club PA Chapter members who have exemplified outstanding commitment in support of our organization initiatives. Please make checks payable to Sierra Club PA Chapter.

**Number of Awards Dinner Reservations:** \_\_\_\_\_ **x \$25 =** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed registration form to:  
Sierra Club PA Chapter, PO Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108  
Deadline to register is May 31.



# Explore and Enjoy Photo Contest

Deadline for submission:  
May 31, 2016

**Name**

---

**Address**

---

---

**Email**

---

**Phone**

---

**Age**

---

**Photo #1**

Title:

---

Location:

---

**Photo #2**

Title:

---

Location:

---

**Photo #3**

Title:

---

Location:

---

## RULES

1. All submissions must be your original work and cannot be more than two years old.
2. Maximum three submissions per person
3. Open to all ages
4. Photos must have been take in PA
5. Negatives not accepted
6. Minor adjustments/manipulations to the image are allowed (i.e. saturation, sharpening, conversions to b/w,) – Instagram and VSCOcam accepted.
7. Black and white, and color images will be accepted
8. High resolution JPGs accepted at [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)
9. Prints not to exceed 11x14" mailed to: PO Box 606, Harrisburg, PA 17108
10. This completed entry form must be submitted with all digital and mail entries

## PRIZES

Submissions will be reviewed by Sierra Club staff based on subject, originality, technical excellence, and composition. One first, second, and third place winner will be selected. The winners will receive small prizes and all winners' photos will be framed and displayed in the Sierra Club office, and featured online in the Summer 2016 *Sylvanian*.

# YOU'RE INVITED

## 2016 Executive Committee Meetings

Gather with your fellow Sierra Club volunteers to organize around important conservation and political issues that shape the future of the Club and the environment.

### Date

12 March

17 September

12 November

Meetings take place in Harrisburg. All meetings are open to the membership at-large. Notifications of meetings and location information is available on our website, [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org), under "Get Involved," or by calling the Chapter office at 717.232.0101.

## [ connect with your sierra club group ]

### Chapter Executive Committee

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>

Follow us on Twitter: @SierraClubPA

### Allegheny Group

[www.alleghenysc.org](http://www.alleghenysc.org)

### Governor Pinchot Group

<http://gvpsierraclub.wordpress.com/>

### Kittatinny Group

<http://kittgroup.weebly.com/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sierra.Kitt.Club>

### Lake Erie Group

[www.lakeeriegrouppage.com](http://www.lakeeriegrouppage.com)

### Lancaster Group

[www.lancastersierraclub.org](http://www.lancastersierraclub.org)

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublancaster>

Email: [sierraclublancaster@yahoo.com](mailto:sierraclublancaster@yahoo.com).

### Lehigh Valley Group

<http://sierraclublv.wordpress.com/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

### Moshannon Group

[www.sierramsh.org](http://www.sierramsh.org)

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/112180198821601/http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

### Northeastern Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern>

### Otzinachson Group

<http://otzinachson.wordpress.com>

Follow us on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/Otzinachson?ref=ts&fref=ts>)

### Southeastern Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern>

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Treasurer	Brian Brown	brianpetebrown@gmail.com	570-524-4756
Assistant Treasurer	Tiffany Hollibaugh	tiffanyhollibaugh@yahoo.com	724-630-7363

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	Darree Sicher	zinc5@enter.net	610-756-6334
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	Tom Au	thomxau@gmail.com	717-234-7445
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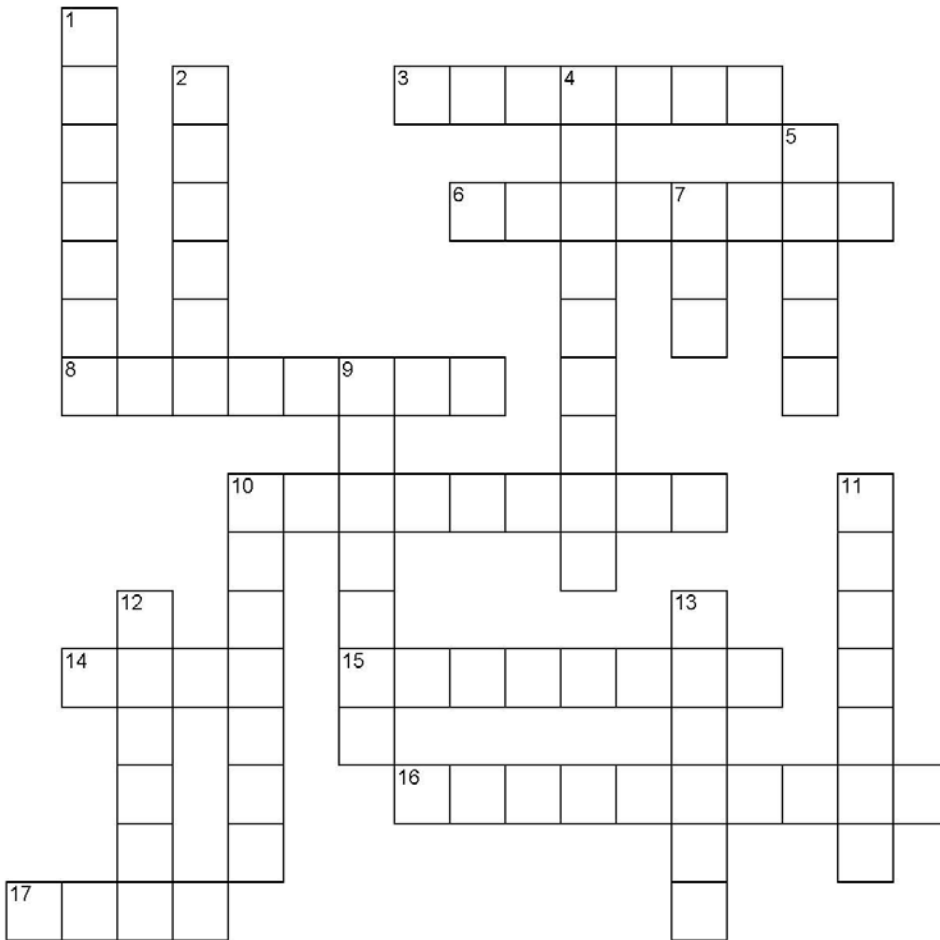
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explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# [ spring crossword ]



### Across

- 3 Explore, Enjoy, and \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Bob Ache \_\_\_\_\_ Forest
- 8 Coal Refuse \_\_\_\_\_ Areas
- 10 Center for \_\_\_\_\_ Justice
- 14 State \_\_\_\_\_ Land
- 15 \_\_\_\_\_ Gas Well
- 16 Gary \_\_\_\_\_, Outings Reporter
- 17 Bailey \_\_\_\_\_ Complex

### Down

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Creek
- 2 Tipping \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Conservation Program Coordinator
- 5 Forest \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ for the Money
- 9 Ryerson \_\_\_\_\_ State Park
- 10 Wyona \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship
- 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Creek State Park
- 12 The Gadfly
- 13 Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Outing

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

answers on page 17