



eco-logue

One Earth
One Chance

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 31, No. 3
July/Aug. 2001

SUMMER OUTINGS

HEMLOCK LAKE

Saturday, July 14th, 8 A.M.

Local environmentalists in the Hemlock Lake area have alerted the Sierra Club to preparations for a logging operation at the upper western side of Hemlock Lake. The City of Rochester owns 7,000 acres in the Hemlock-Canadice Lake area and they have begun to construct a new road leading to a previously un-logged area. Don Root, city conservation officer for the area, reports that the city plans to conduct a "selective harvest" on these wooded areas in order to "improve the vigor of the forest". He says this will be done under the guidance of a professional forestry expert and will "take out the lesser trees." The timber taken will be sold.

This part of the forest has not been cut since the city obtained the land in 1885. It escaped the disastrous timber cut of 1972 because private lands blocked access to this area. But the city has now obtained a legal easement which gives access to seven miles of the upper west side of the lake.

Don Root believes this logging is safe and wise. He has offered to give the Sierra Club and the Finger Lakes Land Trust a tour of some other areas that have been "selectively harvested." In conjunction with the 'Water Explorers' project (now in its second year) we will also have a tour of the City Filtration Plant.

Meet us for car pooling at the First Unitarian Church, lower parking lot, 220 So. Winton Rd. We will leave the parking lot at 8 A.M. Bring a picnic lunch, liquids and hiking gear for easy walking. If you wish to go directly to Hemlock Lake, take Rte. 15A south of Hemlock Village. One mile south of the

CANOEING THE GENESEE - Saturday, July 28

In keeping with the theme of getting to know the Genesee River, we are going on a slow paddle in the flood plain region between the Mount Morris Dam and Avon, NY. We will see the meanderings of the river and a feature called an oxbow lake. This is the historic flood plane and the banks are sandy and silty. This characteristic gives the river its muddy appearance. We expect that the waters will be low in places. We may have to get out and walk some in the river. So, get your arm muscles preconditioned with a little lawn mowing or gym push-ups.

Just the time of year to truly appreciate a Tom Sawyer adventure.

We will gather at the First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, at 9:00 A.M. Saturday, July 28, 2001. Maps to show the meeting place to launch canoes will be handed out at that time. With travel time and time on the river, expect to spend the better part of a day on this activity, i.e. home about 5 PM. For people who live outside the Rochester area or Monroe County, call Laura (see below) to get directions for the river launch site. Be prepared to negotiate steep banks getting to the river and getting out.

Please note these restrictions: This outing is limited to Sierra Club mem-

bers and their families (for insurance reasons). No unaccompanied minors will be allowed. Also, you must make your own arrangements for a canoe. So if you don't have one, team up with someone with a canoe or rent or borrow a canoe on your own. Two people are needed to negotiate a canoe. A third person may ride in the middle but that makes the canoe ride lower in the water and it may be more likely to scrape bottom in low water.

Everyone must have a proper life vest to participate. We will review safety for the group before pushing off.

A list of suggested items to bring: sun



screen, insect repellent, plenty of water (no alcoholic beverages), sack lunch, shoes to get muddy, hat, don't forget life vests and paddles!!, a jacket for wind and rain, change of clothes in the car, appreciation of the world around and a sense of humor. To sign up or to get more information, call Laura Arney at 334-8548 or Howard and Carole Camp at 473-1410. (There will be a time in July when both of us will be out of town.) We will attempt to coordinate people with canoes and people without canoes so all may join together for a good time.

village at the Filtration Plant turn right onto Rix Hill Rd. We will gather at the gate which is just past the Hemlock

dam on Rix Hill Rd. The tour starts at 9 A.M., Saturday, July 14th.

FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

Most seem to agree that one of the saddest events this spring was the closing of Genesee Hospital. We can all bemoan the loss of this great service to urban people, yet no one has linked the loss to a broader vision of natural justice and what is most desirable for the greater earth community.

In his essay *The More Universal Good: The Great Work*, John Surette, SJ, argues that in making decisions we should be guided by the principle of what brings the greatest good for the greatest numbers. From the Deep

Ecology point of view this means decisions should be made considering the earth community as a whole, not just the human community.

It's interesting to apply this idea to the closure of Genesee Hospital and to connect the obvious injustice to urban people with the distorted attitudes toward nature of some who have decided to flee the city for a mythical piece of suburban nature; ironically destroying nature in the process. Many former services provided by Genesee Hospital have or will soon move to the new medical slums being constructed on the former Gonsenhauser farm lands on Westfall Road. In recent years nine new medically related services have landed on the formerly broad fields like buzzards on carrion burying the green sward under tar roofs and macadam

parking lots.

Wouldn't the greater good have been for the community, led by our government, business and spiritual communities, to call on all the interlocking citizen networks to make economic sacrifices to support Genesee Hospital where it is most needed, while embracing a natural vision of health for the entire community by leaving Gonsenhauser lands natural? Guided by the "greater good" for all earth's creatures we could have created a new regional "Central Park" on the beautiful old farm land large enough to encompass the future. This would certainly bring greater good to both city people, who are dependent on public transportation, and the wildlife which thrives on open space and grass lands.

GENESEE HEADWATERS OUTING

Geology

Environment

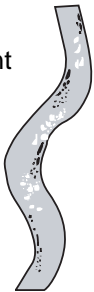
Nature

Escape

Scenic

Earth

Ecology



Respect

Industry

Valuable

Enjoyment

Recreation

We had a glorious day exploring and learning about the Genesee River on June 9. Yes, we saw the "whole thing." We made stops at Rochester's High Falls, Geneseo, Letchworth and at the Headwaters in Pennsylvania. We hiked around and found fossils. We had lunch at Letchworth overlooking the Grand Canyon of the East. The weather cooperated with a sunny & breezy day. Bill Chasson did a wonderful job of explaining the evolution of the Genesee River from it's spring beginning near Gold Pennsylvania to it's mouth at Lake Ontario in Charlotte.

For me it was fascinating to hear about the flowing and receding of the glaciers in this area. Bill assured us there will not be another ice age in our life time. About 17 members and

friends joined us for the day, with 10 of us spending the night at the Susquehanna Lodge. This was one of the best Sierra Club outings I've been on. Thanks to everyone who organized and attended it.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

By Frank J. Regan

This November the Communications Committee is sponsoring a Communications Workshop. Its purpose is to help train and inform Rochester area environmental/activist groups to work more quickly and productively with our media. Also, a brochure "Rochester Media Guide for Activists" will be provided for the groups involved. In the next issue of this newsletter there will be more information on the program and on how you and your group can sign up for this event.

RochesterEnvironment.com has a weekly newsletter that can help you keep up-to-date on environmental news, events, and ways you can help. To sign up, go to <http://www.egroups.com/group/RochesterEnvironment>

ANSEL ADAMS AND THE SIERRA CLUB

The above is the title of an upcoming program at the George Eastman House in connection with their current exhibit, *In Praise of Nature, Ansel Adams and Photographers of the American West*. This program is in the Curtis Theatre on September 6, 6:30 P.M. Our own Hugh Mitchell and Ray Nelson are the presenters and they're busy doing their homework in preparation for it. It's included with museum admission on that day.

ENERGY A NEW INTEREST GROUP

Eric Smith is interested in forming a small group to study and learn about the many aspects of the energy issue which is very much before us these days. If you're interested in participating, give Eric a call at 244-3999 or e-mail at esmith@ulbi.com.

Eco-logue is published bimonthly by the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club, Post Office Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604-9516. Subscriptions are free to Sierra Club members living in the Rochester Region, and available at \$10 per year to others.

A BALANCED ENERGY PLAN

Excerpts from a Sierra Club report

1. Efficiency Measures

Raising miles per gallon standards to 40 mpg for cars and light trucks would cut CO₂ pollution by 600 million metric tons, save consumers at least \$45 billion each year at the gas pump, and save more oil than we get from Persian Gulf, the Arctic wildlife refuge and California offshore oil drilling combined.

The Pacific Northwest National Laboratory estimates federal agencies would save \$1 billion annually if they installed currently available, energy-efficient technologies, such as compact fluorescent light bulbs and efficient appliances. Further, if Americans bought only Energy Star appliances, we would shrink our energy bills by more than \$100 billion.

Offering tax credits for the use of efficient equipment and building designs would cut our demand for electricity and natural gas faster than new plants, transmission lines, and pipelines can be built.



2. Renewable Energy

WIND POWER

When appropriately sited, wind generation can provide massive amounts of clean energy. It is estimated that the states of South Dakota, North Dakota and Texas have enough wind to provide electricity for the entire United States. This form of power is quickly becoming competitive with other forms of energy — by the end of 2001, the U.S. Department of Energy expects enough additional wind power generation to provide for 1.7 million more households.

SOLAR POWER

Solar energy is so abundant that the sunlight the Earth receives in 30 minutes is equivalent to all the power used by humankind in one year. When appropriately sited, solar energy creates no pollution and is the most

environmentally friendly source of power currently available. It is already used by 200,000 homes in the U.S. A system that converts solar energy into heat is used to heat the buildings of Ford, General Motors and Federal Express, and is already saving about \$400,000 a year, plus reducing annual CO₂ emissions by 10 million pounds.

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

When geothermal energy is captured, it can provide us with a large supply of energy. Careful assessments can enable us to access this type of energy without harming our public lands. The United States has an installed geothermal generating capacity of about 2,700 megawatts — the equivalent of about 58 million barrels of oil — and provides enough electricity for 3.7 million people.

BIOMASS POWER

By 2010, biomass power (converting carbon from organic matter into energy) could provide an additional 3,000 megawatts of electric capacity in the U.S. — enough electricity for more than 13 million people.

3. Cleaner and More Efficient Fossil Fuel Production

REPLACE OLD POWER PLANTS WITH EFFICIENT PLANTS

New, high efficiency combined-cycle gas-fired power plants are twice as efficient and can be 10 times cleaner than old gas plants, but they must be sited appropriately.

TRANSPORT GAS FROM PRUDHOE BAY

An estimated 35 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves is located in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. Research is needed on how to transport this gas to the Lower 48 in the most environmentally sensitive way.

MAXIMIZE PRODUCTION FROM EXISTING OIL AND GAS WELLS

The Department of Energy estimates that we could recover an additional one million barrels of oil per

GET READY FOR THE SECOND ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL!

Be thinking ahead to October, 2001, and this year's Second Annual Fall Festival.

Those who attended last year's Fall Festival can attest to the good time had by all. From the fine catered buffet, to the fun of the Silent Auction, to the live acoustic music, to the rustic atmosphere of Cobb's Hill Park, it was a memorable event for all.

Now the planning for this year's Fall Festival is underway! And we could use your help in three ways:

1) Donate an item to the Silent Auction. Last year's donations included original framed nature photography, sailing lessons, camping supplies, physical therapy, and so forth.

2) Volunteer to help organize the Festival. Sell tickets, locate a site, contact performers, set up for dinner, etc.

3) Come to the Festival! Planning is underway. Check your next Eco-logue or on our web site for the date (sometime in October) and place (suggestions welcome).

This is a fun way to support the activities of your local Sierra Club. It doesn't take a lot of time, and gives you the satisfaction of knowing you're helping support the cause.

To donate an item or offer your help, please contact David Ruekberg at 538-6463 or druekberg@msn.com.

Thanks to last year's Fall Festival Silent Auction donors, including: The Dog Washer Company, Patricia Gabrosky, HerzImages (Marian Herz), Janet Laird, Hugh Mitchell, Ray Nelson, Andy Olenick, Frank Regan, David Ruekberg, and Virginia Tyler. (Apologies to those left off the list.)

day, and up to 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas by using advanced technology in existing wells.

Note: this complete report, can be found at http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/bush_plan/factsheet.asp

CALENDAR

July 5 Thursday 7:00 PM Kandid Coalition 517 Averill Ave.⁴
July 14 Saturday 8:00 a.m. ----- Outing: Hemlock Lake ----- Meet at First Unitarian Church Lot¹
July 18 Wednesday 7:30 p.m. Wetlands Committee 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
July 28 Saturday 9:00 a.m. ----- Outing: Canoeing the Genessee -- Meet at First Unitarian Church Lot¹
Aug. 2 Thursday 7:00 PM Kandid Coalition (see note 4)
Aug. 15 Wednesday 7:30 p.m. ----- Wetlands Committee ----- 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Aug. 15 Wednesday Eco-logue deadline
Aug. 16 Thursday 5:30 p.m. ----- ExCom meeting² ----- St. John's Meadows²
Aug. 30 Thursday 7:30 p.m. Eco-logue mailing party³

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

²ExCom meetings are open to members. Call Ginny Tyler if coming 244-4084.

³Call Ray Nelson, 342-2734 for time & location

⁴Call Laura Arney, 334-8548 for location.
