



eco-logue

Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 31, No. 4
Sept./Oct. 2001

2nd Annual Fall Festival: Forever Wild A Multi-Media Event

7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 29, 2001, Friends Meeting House, 84 Scio Street

“My message is about the celebration of the wilderness. I try to share the magic of the wild that most of us have lost by not observing the natural world.” These convictions underlie the songs, photography, poetry, and stories that **Jim Stoltz** will perform in a live concert on September 29. The show, *Forever Wild* combines Jim’s original folk music and narration with his slides of nature taken on his annual six-week hikes. The result is a powerful program sharing the magic and inspiration of the wild.



“Walkin’ Jim” has hiked over 24,000 miles of America’s last wild places – much of it unprotected. His passion

about preserving America’s wild places, combined with his masterful singing and song writing are reasons this show has been touring since 1986. According to the *LA Times*, “Stoltz manages to convey his message without preaching.” As Jim himself puts it, “This show is a sharing and an inspirational event.” Jim’s warm, booming voice and his keen guitar playing are just good music.

Jim’s first long trek was in 1974 on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. Since then he has hiked the Continental Divide, the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada, and many other trails. He also brings information on what people can do to help preserve our wilderness areas.

The message has been received well: he earned an Outstanding Achievement Award from the EPA for “sharing nature and wilderness with others across America through your extraordinary words, images, and music.”

The show starts at 7:30 – come early

for refreshments and to get a good seat! (Free parking is available in the East End Garage across Scio street.)

Space is limited, so get your tickets early. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children up to 12 and seniors over 65. Tickets may be purchased at the door, from any of our officers, or by mail: Make your check out to “Sierra Club, RRG,” specify the number of tickets and your name, and mail to David Ruekberg, 3558 Oatka Creek Rd., Leroy, NY 14482. (Orders *must* be postmarked by Saturday, Sept. 22. Orders mailed after that date cannot be guaranteed.) Your tickets will be mailed to you.

Questions? Call 420-4363, or e-mail sierra_rochester@yahoo.com.

Be sure to check out Jim’s web page to listen to clips of his songs! <http://www.walkinjim.com>

Proceeds benefit your local Group of the Sierra Club.

The Politics of Winning The Conservation Agenda

An address by Professor Rhea Jezer

7:00 p.m., Thursday, October 18, 2001, Third Presbyterian Church (Meigs & East Ave.)

We have invited a major State and National Sierra Club leader and political activist, Rhea Jezer, to spend an evening with us and tell us how the Sierra Club works for the betterment of our New York environment.

Professor Rhea Jezer is currently Chairperson of the Atlantic Chapter Conservation Committee and former Chairperson (for three years) of the Atlantic Chapter. Rhea is a political expert who ran twice for Congress, in 1994 losing by a hair. Her strength

within the Sierra Club has put her in a position to influence both State and National legislation. She has served on Governor Pataki’s Task Force on Toxic Waste and is currently the New York State environmental advisor to Hillary Clinton. She is in frequent touch with Charles Schumer as well as with the Governor’s Office. Somehow, she balances all this with being a Professor of Music (specialty in piano and harpsichord), a wife, a mother, and a grandmother of five.

Rhea will speak to the Rochester Regional Sierra Club about political activism for conservation, giving us the benefit of her years of experience inside politics. In her talk she will touch on some of the problems the state Sierra Club has encountered and she will lay out our New York State conservation agenda. This promises to be an informative, revealing and profitable evening for those interested in the inner workings of the Sierra Club.

From the Chair



by Hugh Mitchell

Help! Our treasury is nearly empty! Some important leadership positions are vacant.

We need your financial and/or volunteer support for a number of our conservation programs and actions.

We think you'll agree that these programs to save the environment in the Rochester region are important.

Here are a few of them:

- "Sprawl Follows the Pipes" Our year-long, extensive study of the relationship between the expansion of potable water pipes by Monroe County Water Authority and suburban sprawl is nearing completion. With your support our Sierra Club 50-page report will be published soon.
- The Willow Point wetlands and sandy bluff over Irondequoit Bay is threatened. Our Wetlands Committee is working to save this area (see page 3).
- We are spearheading efforts for the preservation of the Hemlock Old Growth forest.
- We are part of the coalition to Save Our Seneca Park.
- We are part of the Kandid Coalition.
- We have an active Population & Sustainability Committee.

We have many other conservation oriented activities all of which need your help, either by volunteering or with your financial support.

Leadership: We can not administer our group without a strong and continuing Executive Committee. The season for nominations and elections is here. We need volunteers to help with Fund raising, Programs, and Membership. Please call the Nominations Committee if you are interested (see adjacent article), or call me (244-2625)

No Exit Victory

By Frank J. Regan

"You and your colleagues in NO EXIT are to be commended for a well organized campaign, and the resulting announcement yesterday that the Chili exit will not be built. As we have learned here at City Hall (and practice resolutely), it is better to work with citizens than against them.

"Now that this particular campaign has been won, I hope that you and your colleagues will be willing to continue your efforts with those of us who are developing strategies that can lead to the economic revitalization of the greater Rochester region. We have many formidable challenges to overcome, not the least of which is the political inertia that your group encountered. Your group has won the first battle, but there are many more ahead." – from a note from Mayor Bill Johnson to the No Exit group.

Rochester's Mayor Johnson is a leader in our country's desire to grow wisely.

Without fiscal or environmental justification and without support from the community, the proposal for the

"Your group has won the first battle, but there are many more ahead."

New York State Thruway exit at Chili failed. The project would have transformed a cornfield in Chili into a concrete conduit for urban sprawl. The Administration's wanted to demolish the quiet community of Chili for a badly planned (but showy) project. But

rather than grumble and groan, the No Exit group fought the proposal. And they won. They fought to preserve the quality of their community, and in the process helped stem the flow of unplanned sprawl into our entire region.

The national Sierra Club says sprawl hurts us all. Poorly planned development is threatening our environment, our health, and our quality of life. In communities across America "sprawl" - scattered development that increases traffic, saps local resources and destroys open space - is taking a serious toll. But runaway growth is not inevitable.

Hundreds of urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods are choosing to manage

Calling all Sierrans!

This is your chance to become involved in the month-to-month activities of your Rochester Regional Group. The election of officers will be held this fall, and now is the time for nominations. Our new bylaws call for the affairs of the group to be managed by an ExCom of 12 members elected by the Group membership for terms of two years. Six members are to be elected to the ExCom each year. This year, we will need to secure nominations for seven people, six to serve for two years and one for a one-year term to fill a vacancy.

After the elections, the ExCom meets to select individual officers to fill specific positions such as Group Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, etc. This year we anticipate that we will

need to find new officers to fill the positions of Fund-raising Chair, Membership Chair, Program Chair, and Vice-Chair. So if you have an interest in learning more about any of these positions and/or in being a member of the ExCom, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee: Sarah Boyce (271-3394), Deb Muratore (385-9743), or Eric Smith (244-3999). If you nominate someone, please be sure they are interested in serving. Election ballots will appear in the November/December Eco-logue.

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.

Willow Point Threatened

by Dan Grisley

Willow Point is on the east shore of Irondequoit Bay, just south of Glen Edith. It is a particularly beautiful, wild, and environmentally sensitive area. One that should be preserved.

However, Legacy Development and the Mark IV Corporation, builder of a town house development "Willowpoint on the Bay" wants to construct a paved road down the steep slopes to the shoreline of Irondequoit Bay, a parking lot, and 99 boat docks. Also planned is a drainage system for storm water which will flow into a small wetland. Several DEC permits would be required.

The Sierra Club Wetlands Committee has taken up the cause. We contacted all the officers of the local Sierra Club, as well as all the Club members living in the town of Webster, asking them to respond to the DEC's request for public comments on the plan. One result was the appearance of articles about Willow Point in the Webster Herald, the Post Newspapers, the Democrat and Chronicle, and a cover story by Jack Spula in City Newspaper which was especially supportive of the environmental position. A local candidate for county legislature, Celia Oxley, held a press conference in which she opposed the Willowpoint project. Public response has been overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed construction. Almost eighty letters, mostly from private citizens, have been sent to the DEC, most voicing their disapproval.

It has been reported that the DEC will make a decision regarding the permits for Willowpoint by the end of September. It is not too late for your input. Especially desirable would be opinions from experts in the fields of geology, wildlife, wetlands, water quality, and law. Write or call: Robert I. Shearer, NYDEC, 6274 East Avon-Lima Rd., Avon, NY 14414, Tel: 716-226-2466.

[Dan has been the major player in the effort to save Willow Point. -ed]

Tour of Solar Homes

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 13

Six area homeowners have reduced their dependence on utility-provided energy by generating electricity through solar and wind power. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 13, the general public is welcome to tour their homes and see first hand how renewable energy works.

The homeowners are participating in the National Tour for Solar Homes sponsored by the American Solar Energy Society.

The six homes on tour are:

- Nancy Allinger and Duane Basch, 215 Scofield Road, Mendon
- Bill and Sue LaBine, 290 Genesee Street, Avon
- Doug and Marietta Stockman, 1170 Frawley Drive, Penfield
- James Jameson, 3450 Adams Road, Penn Yan
- Jud and Debbie McCarthy, 3062 Baldwin Road, Penn Yan
- Diana Pryntz and Brian Nadworny, 3441 Irish Settlement Road, Belmont.

For more information, and to obtain directions to the sites, contact Nancy Allinger at 716-624-2382 or at allinbas@frontiernet.net. Check out these web sites: www.ASES.org and www.NESEA.org for national and regional information. Check out www.RenewableEnergyWorks.com after September 15 for local information.

Free admission.

Coastal Cleanup

Durand Beach, 9:00 a.m. Sept. 15

Rochester's extensive waterfront is a unique community resource. Here's an opportunity to help protect it and have fun at the same time. The Sierra Club is participating in the 15th Annual International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, Sept. 15. Our "area" is at Durand Eastman Beach. Come promptly at 9:00 and you can enjoy a light breakfast (bagels, muffins and juice). After the cleanup (~noon) stay for a free lunch, raffles, games, and entertainment. It should be a fun and worthwhile time. Pre-register if you can by Aug. 31. Call 271-4552, ext. 320, or e-mail to margit_brazda@rmsc.org. (Walk-ins are welcome too.) See you there.

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.

Reclaim the Air from Corporate Polluters!

On Saturday October 20, 2001 the Kandid Coalition is organizing a regional Teach-In on Kodak at SUNY Geneseo where we will educate and empower people from all across Western New York to hold one of New York's biggest corporate polluters accountable. Workshops at the Teach-In will include:

- Kodak's Pollution 101
- Community Organizing 101
- Health issues surrounding Kodak Title V & Kodak
- And many more!

Now is the time to pull together. We must help corporations to understand that there are alternatives to incineration. We must make the connection between the documented health problems in Rochester and the fact that we live next to the largest emitter of carcinogens in the country.

JOIN US. Challenge Kodak to protect the health of the people of Rochester. For more information or to register contact the Western New York office of CEC at (716) 885-6848 or at cecwny@buffnet.net

Finger Lakes National Forest - A Sierra Club Outing

Saturday, October 13th, 2001.

Join us for a hike in a beautiful and unique area near Seneca Lake which happens to also be the controversial site of a proposed gas and oil exploration project. Mike Sandritter of the Finger Lakes Sierra Club Group will be our guide for this hike in the Finger Lakes National Forest.

A painful local example of the hunger for exploiting our National Forests surfaced this summer with the proposal by private energy companies to search for gas and possibly oil beneath the much loved Finger Lakes National Forest. A DEC hearing on the local "find and produce" theme was held following the cry of third-ranking Republican Tom DeLay of Texas to "go and find and produce oil and gas wherever..." (particularly in the National Arctic Wildlife Refuge). Jack Bradigan Spula pointed this out in the City News (7/25/01). Although at this time it seems unlikely that the 'search and destroy' proposals will advance any further, it is worth seeing the area under debate first hand.



Meet Howard Camp for car pooling at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, October 13th at the First Unitarian Church lower parking lot, 220 South Winton Rd. If you want to go directly to the National Forest, proceed via NY turnpike to the Geneva exit (#42). From Rte 14, take Rte 96 south to Ovid, then 96A /414 to the ice cream stand near the center of Lodi Village. Meet our guide, Mike Sandritter, there at 10:15 a.m. For questions on this membership outing contact Howard Camp at 473-1410.

In order to participate in one of the Sierra Club's outings, you will need to

sign a liability waiver. If you would like to read a copy of the waiver prior to the outing, please see <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/> or call 415-977-5630.

In the interests of facilitating the logistics of outings, participants often make car pooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for car pooling arrangements and assumes no liability for them. Car pooling, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants and participants assume the risks associated with this travel.

Canoeing the Genesee

by Laura Arney

Seventeen Sierra Club members attended The Genesee River outing on July 28, 2001. We put in and took out at bridges just west of Geneseo, NY. The river makes wide meanders in this section resulting in a 4-hour trip in the pre-glacial flood plain to cover two miles "as the crow flies" or roughly 8 miles as the river flows. The predictions of conditions held true: low water for the first 1/2 mile. The river ran very slow. The weather broke from the previous extreme heat and was milder. It was a beautiful day to be on the river. We saw interesting river features such as an ox-bow lake, downed trees, high banks, and fine silty sand bars. The

hardest part was getting down the banks and back up again. But it was a nice adventure and good clean fun.

[And a huge THANK YOU to Laura for all the work and worrying she did to make this the success that it was. -ed]



Do You Really Need That Rebate? We Do!

Donate Your Tax Rebate to Sierra Club

Do you desperately need your George Bush tax rebate? Or would you rather send a message to the Administration objecting to their anti-environmental policies? Several Rochester Regional Group members are giving their tax rebate to fund our local conservation activities. Make out a personal check to *Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group* and send it to us (see box at right). We'll tell George Bush how he really helped the environment.

Treasury Almost Empty

Right now we are working on saving wetlands like Willow Point on Irondequoit Bay, preserving Hemlock old growth forest, publishing our year long study on how "Sprawl Follows The Pipes" and a number of other conservation projects. BUT we can't do it without more help. Our treasury is almost empty! Most of your dues go to support our highly effective national environmental advocacy programs. On the local level we must raise most of our own operating funds. Here's another way you can help:

Here's my donation to the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club

From: _____

Address: _____

Amount: _____

___ Contribution or ___ Tax Deductible Gift?

___ Please tell George Bush about my contribution.

Send personal check (not the Treasury check) to:

Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group

P.O. Box 39516

Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Make a Tax Deductible Contribution

If you want to make a tax-deductible contribution you can do it in a way that will directly benefit the Rochester Regional Group. Cash, stocks or bonds can be given to the *Sierra Club Foundation* marked "*For use by the Rochester Regional Group.*" (Include #FC1959 on check.) For stocks or bond donations call Hugh Mitchell 244-2625.

P.S. Buying tickets to the Fall Festival with "Walkin Jim" Stoltz from Big Sky, Montana will also help our local Group (see page 1).

Energy Meetings

Eric Smith is organizing a committee to consider energy issues. It's a good time to join in if you're interested in learning more about energy problems and solutions. Meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., the second Wednesday of the month at 25 Brook Lane, Apt. E:

September 12

October 10

November 14

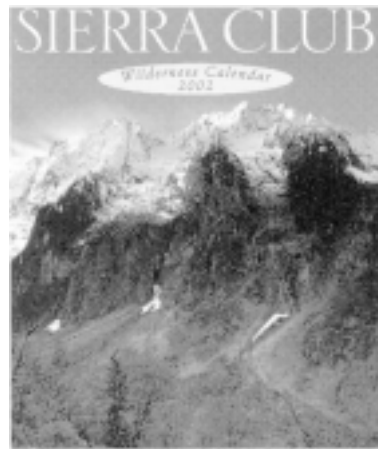
December 12

Call Michael at 586-4618 for directions or Eric at 244-3999 for more information.

It's not too early to be thinking about

SIERRA CLUB 2002 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2002 Engagement Calendar-stunning images of flora and fauna, from panoramas to close-ups.



Sierra Club 2002 Wilderness Wall Calendar- majestic natural landscapes of North America. Spiral bound.

Buying calendars from us also helps the Rochester Regional Group
For information or to place an order, Call Ray Nelson at 342-2734, or e-mail to rlnelson@eznet.net

CALENDAR

Sept. 6	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	----- Ansel Adams and the Sierra Club (see pg 3) -----	George Eastman House
Sept. 9	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	Population & Sustainability Committee	First Unitarian Church ¹
Sept. 12	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	----- Energy Committee (see pg 5) -----	25 Brook Lane, Apt. E:
Sept. 13	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	ExCom meeting ²	St. John's Meadows ²
Sept. 15	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	----- International Coastal Cleanup (see pg 3) -----	Durand Eastman Beach
Sept. 19	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Sept. 29	Saturday	7:30 p.m.	----- Fall Festival, (see pg 1) -----	Friends Meeting House, 84 Scio St.
Oct. 4	Thursday	7:00 PM	Kandid Coalition	(see note 4)
Oct. 7	Sunday	1:00 p.m.	----- Population & Sustainability Committee -----	First Unitarian Church ¹
Oct. 10	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Energy Committee (see pg 5)	25 Brook Lane, Apt. E:
Oct. 11	Thursday	5:30 p.m.	ExCom meeting ²	St. John's Meadows ²
Oct. 13	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	----- Outing - FL Natl Forest (see pg 4) ----	Meet at First Unitarian Church Lot¹
Oct. 15	Monday		Eco-logue deadline	
Oct. 17	Wednesday	7:30 p.m.	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Oct. 18	Thursday	7:00 p.m.	----- Politics of Conservation (see pg 1) -----	Third Presbyterian Church
Oct. 20	Saturday		Atlantic Chapter ExCom meeting (open to members)	call 244-2625
Oct. 28	Sunday	7:30 p.m.	-----	Eco-logue mailing party ³

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

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

²Open to members. Call Ginny Tyler 244-4084.

⁴Call Laura Arney for location

Visit our web site at www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ny/rochester

Also worth a visit: <http://rochesterenvironment.com>

To add your name to our e-mail list send your address to e2s@cyber1.servtech.com.

Call 420-4363 for info about Sierra Club events and voice mail.