



eco-logue

CALENDARS ARE IN
see page 3

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 31, No. 5
Nov./Dec. 2001

Annual Sierra Club Celebration of the Solstice

Featuring "Ansel Adams and the Sierra Club"

5:30 p.m. Thursday, December 6th, 2001 at Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows*

Did you miss it? Well here's a chance for a replay of our winning program "Ansel Adams and the Sierra Club". You are invited to join us for a glass of cheer, potluck supper, good fellowship, and the illustrated talk at our annual celebration of the winter solstice. (Please bring a dish to pass and your own place setting.) This year's dinner will be followed by an abridged version of the hugely successful Eastman House program given by Ray Nelson and Hugh Mitchell documenting Ansel Adams' contributions to the

Sierra Club and the environmental movement. The talk is accompanied by slides including some of Adams' great nature photographs and it provides an excellent summary of the growth of the American environmental movement. The talk drew a sellout crowd at the George Eastman House in September.

*St. John's Meadows is on the south side of Elmwood Ave. just west of Clinton Ave. in Brighton. Look for the white fence, bear right after entering, and proceed to Chestnut Court at 2200 Johnsarbor Drive West.



Moon and Half Dome, Yosemite Valley
Ansel Adams

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness

7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 20, Hoyt Hall*, University of Rochester

Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness is a unique multi-media slideshow documenting citizen efforts to designate some public lands as Wilderness in southern Utah's spectacular canyon country and deserts. This 20 minute journey through redrock splendor invigorates and motivates viewers to participate in the movement to protect these unique lands. *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness* was made possible through the generous donation of photos, music and words from concerned Utahns who wish to pass this heritage on to future generations. It includes a special reading by Pulitzer Prize winning author Wallace Stegner from his famous *Wilderness Letter*.

The University of Rochester Sierra Student Coalition and Rochester Regional Group of Sierra Club are co-

sponsoring *Wild Utah: America's Redrock Wilderness*. The program is free and open to the public.

This program will be hosted by Dave Pacheco. Dave has worked with the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance for seven years after receiving a degree in Sociology from the University of Utah. He grew up in Utah and loves its wild landscapes passionately. Dave oversees a team of grassroots organizers across the nation and educates members and the public about current threats, actions, and events surrounding the Utah wilderness issue.

*Hoyt Hall is on your right when facing the front of Rush Rees Library from the Eastman Quadrangle. It's between and slightly behind Bausch & Lomb and Dewey halls which border on that side of the Quadrangle. The most convenient parking is in Lot M.

Soccer Complex Alert

Many Greece residents are mounting an effort to oppose the proposed soccer complex at Canal Park. The complex would use precious park land for a largely commercial venture. Residents wanting to join this effort should call Dave Ridley at 352-5264.

Organic Farming Art & Poetry Exhibit

An unusual collaborative photo, art, and literature exhibit on organic farming will open Oct. 26th, 7pm, at Rochester City Hall. It features the award winning work of Thomas Ruggieri and the nature poetry of **Hugh Mitchell**. The gallery exhibit highlights the idyllic and complex life on the *Peacework* organic farm in Newark. A new poetry anthology *Five In The Afternoon* featuring some of Hugh's poems will be pre-released at the opening.



by Hugh Mitchell

Two environmentalists - two styles. "Walkin Jim" Stoltz has devoted his life to tramping through deep wilderness, walking over 25,000 miles in search of music and his soul. Those who attended his "Forever Wild" concert of songs, stories, poems and spectacular nature slides benefited from his vision of saving the last great American wilderness by creating a "Forever Wild" corridor from Yellowstone to the Yukon. Jim is a unique and exceptional environmentalist with a flamboyant road show.

In contrast to 'Walkin Jim' our Sierra Club Group has been lucky to have in our ranks another environmentalist with a totally different style who has worked quietly and effectively behind the scenes to help run our organization over a number of years. Dave Ruekberg, our treasurer, was responsible for organizing and running the "Forever Wild" show, which raised over \$500 for the group. Although little known outside the inner circle of the Ex-Com and Outings groups, Dave is an equally unique and dedicated environmentalist whose selfless behind-the-scenes work makes the organization thrive. In his own modest way Dave does just as much to help the environmental cause as Jim.

Because of the recent fund raising efforts, we are now past our immediate financial crisis but we're still in a "tight belt" situation. There are two things you can do to help. Buy Sierra Club calendars (they make great Christmas gifts), or make a special tax-deductible contribution. Although your membership dollars are not tax-deductible, you can make a special contribution to the Sierra Club Foundation (reserved for educational purposes) which is tax-deductible. Please feel free to call me at 244-2625 for details on how to donate tax-deductible cash, stocks, or bonds.

What Kind Of Sustainability? Questions About the Future of Hemlock Lake Forest

by Hugh Mitchell

The City of Rochester owns an old growth forest on the west side of Hemlock Lake. Two visions for the future of this forest are now under consideration. Both purport to be based on a philosophy of sustainability. But the question is "What *kind* of sustainability – economic or natural?"

In 1873, state law gave Rochester the right to preserve Hemlock and Canadice lakes as the source for drinking water. Since then the forests on the steep western side of Hemlock Lake have been untouched. As a result, this section of the property now contains one of the finest stands of old growth oaks and hemlocks in western New York. Several groves, which were isolated from earlier 19th century logging, contain stands of hemlock documented to be over 250 years old. A few are 400 years old!

In 1972 the City logged many of the reservoir areas but the west side of the Hemlock Lake was blocked by private land holdings. Now the City has obtained an easement over the private lands and has constructed an access road reaching into this western Hemlock forest. This road can be used for logging. Although they claim logging is a secondary goal of the Forest Management Plan, their plan will essentially change the forest from old growth to young growth. This will be achieved in small steps by using a type of logging which yields both immediate revenue and creates conditions for a sustainable future timber yield. This type logging avoids clear cutting and leaves patches of the true old growth.

Speaking for the City, Watershed Conservationist Don Root, says that

moderate logging will create "a younger, healthier, more vigorous, fast growing forest" which can be sustainably logged in the future. But is this the kind of sustainable future we want for a rare old growth forest?

The little-touched section of Hemlock forest is about half-a-mile wide and approximately 1,958 acres. No one knows exactly how many acres are true old growth forest. Considering the small size of this forest and the scarcity of old growth in this part of the country, we need to ask if it should be traded

for a young forest which can be exploited again and again. Wouldn't it be better to let this forest manage itself following its own well-developed sustainability scheme?

Most Sierra Club members

would support a sustainable yield of "forest products" as long as the forest remains unharmed and healthy. But the case of logging in or near old growth is different. It should be excluded from the economic equation because it is all that is left of the dream of Eden which the American continent gave to our ancestors. In the case of the Hemlock Lake west-side forest, we need to think beyond economics to natural sustainability.

A better answer would be to use the new road for access to the forest, and develop trails to the ancient hemlock groves so citizens can witness and appreciate a true old growth forest. I guarantee it is a spiritual experience to be in the presence of such greatness.



Admiring an old growth hemlock by Hemlock Lake

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.

Energy Group

If you have an interest in energy conservation and would like to get involved or just want to get on our email list, send us an email to: rochester_energy_group@hotmail.com

Or, check out our local website: <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/energy.htm>

Or, the national Sierra Club website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/energy/>

Or, call Eric Smith: 716-244-3999

You can get on our email list, come to the meetings, help with local trips, or just offer suggestions.

Look for our Energy Tip in this and future Eco-logues. You don't need to know anything about energy conservation to participate, you just need a desire to get involved!

Communications Report

By FRANK J. REGAN

Our web site has a new look and a new agenda. Erv Schroeder has created and maintained our web home over the years at

<http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/> He has received high praise for content and expertise in design. Due to his busy schedule Erv can no longer work on the site, so I'll be updating our web site in the future.

One of the new features on our site will be separate pages for each of our group's committees. On each page you will be able to find out the committee's purpose, what is being accomplished, and how you can help. Also, there will be consistent news and content from the National and New York State chapter of the Sierra Club, the Atlantic Chapter. And, as Erv has established,

there will be full descriptions of all our events, resources, contacts, by-laws, and activities.

The web is a great source for a two-way communication with the public about issues that concern us. I hope you will surf over to our site and find out ways that you can get involved with the most influential environmental group in our area.

Energy Tip

When driving, accelerate slowly and brake smart. During acceleration your vehicle's engine is least efficient. And when you press on your brakes, you're wasting the energy that it took to get you up to speed.

ORDER FORM

SIERRA CLUB 2002 CALENDARS

Make check or money order payable to :

Sierra Club - Rochester

Mail check and order form to:

Sierra Club, c/o Ray Nelson

42 Tyringham Rd.

Rochester, NY 14617.

Questions? Call Ray at 342-2734

Buying calendars from us helps the Rochester Regional Group

CALENDAR	Price*	Quantity	Amount
Wilderness	\$ 12.91		
Engagement	\$ 13.99		

*Price includes 8% tax

Subtotal:

Shipping:

\$ 4.00

Total:

Sold to: _____

Ship to: _____

CALENDAR

Oct. 26 - Nov 26	-----	.Organic Farming Art/Poetry Exhibit (see pg 1)	-----	Link Gallery, City Hall	
Nov. 4	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	Population & Sustainability Committee		First Unitarian Church ¹	
Nov. 8	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	-----	ExCom meeting ²	-----	St. John's Meadows ²
Nov. 8	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	Kandid Coalition		(see note 4)	
Nov. 14	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	-----	Energy Committee	-----	25 Brook Lane, Apt. E, Penfield
Nov. 14	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Wetlands Committee		150 Sunset Drive, Brighton	
Nov. 20	Tuesday 7:30 p.m.	-----	Utah Wilderness (see pg 1)	-----	Hoyt Hall, U. of R.
Nov. 30	Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.	Alternatives Fair		First Unitarian Church ¹	
Dec. 1	Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.	-----	Alternatives Fair	-----	First Unitarian Church ¹
Dec. 2	Sunday 1:00 p.m.	-----	Population & Sustainability Committee	-----	First Unitarian Church ¹
Dec. 6	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	Kandid Coalition		(see note 4)	
Dec. 6	Thursday 5:30 p.m.	-----	Annual Solstice Celebration (see pg 1)	-----	St. John's Meadows
Dec. 10	Monday 5:00 p.m.	Human Rights Vigil & Supper		Sister Cities Bridge - DUPC	
Dec. 12	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Energy Committee		25 Brook Lane, Apt. E, Penfield	
Dec. 13	Thursday 6:30 p.m.	-----	ExCom meeting ²	-----	St. John's Meadows ²
Dec. 15	Saturday	Eco-logue deadline			
Dec. 19	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Wetlands Committee		150 Sunset Drive, Brighton	
Jan. 6	Sunday 7:30 p.m.	-----	Eco-logue mailing party ³	-----	

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

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

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

⁴Call Laura Arney for location 334-8548

Visit our web site at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester>

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

To add your name to our e-mail list send your address to frankrrr@rochester.rr.com

Call 244-2625 for info about Sierra Club events and voice mail.