



eco-logue

Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 32, No. 3
June-Aug. 2002



Summer Outings - 2002



Oatka Creek Park June 22, 2002.

Now that some warmer weather has finally arrived, it's time to get outdoors and enjoy some of the beautiful areas right in our own "back yard." Our outing leaders have put together a larger than usual selection of events this summer: five hikes and one canoe outing. So pick one or two that sound interesting and COME ON OUT.

Genesee Valley Greenway Sunday, June 9, 2002

In recognition of National Trails Month (June), Laura Arney will lead a 5-6 mile round trip hike in the Nunda/Protageville area on the Genesee Valley Greenway on June 9, 2002. The intent is to learn more of the Genesee River region and see this regional recreation resource which is the result of the hard work of the Friends of the Genesee Valley Greenway.

We will meet at 9 AM for carpooling at the First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, in Rochester. If you would prefer to meet at the trail head, call Laura for the directions to the hike location. Bring a bag lunch and drink. We will be leisurely so do not plan to rush back to town for an appointment. Don't forget the sunscreen and insect repellent. Call Laura E. Arney (334-8548) to sign up.

Wanted: an additional leader/guide who regularly hikes this section to share your favorite place, natural feature, or a local story.

This gentle trip combines the serene rolling hillside of Western Monroe County with a popular and pretty fishing stream, and some rare geological formations with the remnants of early mining operations. We will meet for car pooling at 9:30 a.m. at the rear parking lot of First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South. Bring a bag lunch. Call Howard or Carol Camp, 473-1410, for further information.

Webster Bay Park July 20, 2002.

A gem of wild forest, high hillsides and beautiful bay vistas tucked away in the heart of Monroe County. Few know what treasures we have in our midst. We will meet for car pooling at 9:30 a.m. at the rear parking lot of First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South. Bring a bag lunch. Call Howard or Carol Camp, 473-1410, for further information.

Genesee County Park August 17, 2002.

This park is characterized by large tracts of serene evergreen forests and gentle rolling hills (a cross-country skiing mecca in the winter). We will meet for car pooling at 9:30 a.m. at the rear parking lot of First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South. Bring a bag lunch. Call Howard or Carol Camp, 473-1410, for further information.

Black Creek Canoeing Sunday, August 11, 2002

On Sunday Aug 11, our destination will be the Black Creek. We will meet at 1PM at the DEC boat launch near Ballantyne Road Bridge (on Black Creek Road behind the ARC building) just west of the Genesee River in Chili. This creek, under the flight path of the Rochester Airport, is surprisingly wild. When other rivers and creeks are at low water, the Genesee River within Monroe County is always full and the Black Creek is usually floatable. We will paddle under the old stone railroad bridge, now part of the Genesee Valley Greenway. Bring your own (or rented) canoe, paddles, and life jackets. Please call for more exact directions and sign up so we can plan for a safe and family oriented trip. (Limit is 10 canoes.) Laura E. Arney, 334-8548.

Braddock's Bay September 14, 2002.

Scheduled to catch a part of the migration season, this area is one of the premier bird-watcher's destination in the eastern U.S. We will meet for car pooling at 9:30 a.m. at the rear parking lot of First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South. Bring binoculars and a bag lunch. Call Howard or Carol Camp, 473-1410, for further information.

From the Chair



by Hugh Mitchell

I'm feeling particularly good about Sierra Club these days because of

the successes we have had on both the national and local scene. Members are probably aware of the successful efforts of the national Sierra Club to preserve the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. And locally we have sponsored our most successful Environmental Forum ever (see adjacent article). What members may not know is the amount of work behind the scenes which the Executive Committee put into launching this success. I would like to extend my personal thanks and gratitude to all involved.

This has been an exciting spring. Two other accomplishments we have achieved are the success of the "Sprawl Follows The Pipes" paper and our influence in saving Hemlock Lake old growth trees from a proposed City logging project. But the environmental clock never stops or even pauses because of a few successes. Please see the kaleidoscope of some other environmental issues we're now pursuing which are detailed in other Eco-logue articles. And please call Sierra Club at 244-2625 to volunteer for the future of our environment.

Energy Tips

Air conditioners use lots of energy. Avoid them if you can. If you must use one, you can save 3% to 5% energy by raising the thermostat 1 degree. Recirculate the cooled air. Use natural or forced ventilation at night (with AC off). Close windows and shades in daytime.

See <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/energy.htm>

Environmental Forum

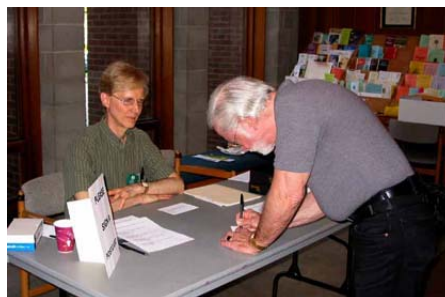
If you were able to attend the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club's Fourth Annual Environmental Forum on April 18, then you heard our two guests—both great environmentalists. This year our guest speaker was our own Mayor William Johnson, noted nationwide as a specialist on Urban Sprawl His 2010 Renaissance Project is a model for redesigning growing cities while protecting our environment. Mayor Johnson commented that he has



Hugh Mitchell, Mayor Johnson, Aaron Mair

worked side-by-side with our group's chairperson Hugh Mitchell, for many years. He pointed out how sprawl lowers the standard of living for all and he highlighted the critical importance grassroots groups have in shaping what happens in our government and to our environment. The Mayor also used the forum as an opportunity to announce that the city has committed several million dollars over the next three years to make more houses in the city of Rochester lead-safe for young children.

The mayor was introduced by Aaron Mair, chairperson for the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club (which includes all of New York State).



Mike Dahl with legislative post card signer



one of the 26 table displays

Mr. Mair has been on the forefront in getting General Electric to clean up the PCB's in the Hudson River. While talking about the mayor's many accomplishments, Mr. Mair mentioned that our Rochester Regional Group's report on *Sprawl Follows the Pipes* is becoming well known nationally as a well-documented report on how sprawl occurs.

Twenty-six Rochester-area conservation groups held table displays at the Forum. It was a unique networking opportunity for the approximately 150 community members who attended. Several local media representatives were also present. The Forum was



Mayor Johnson

hosted by the Choices & the Environment Task force of the First Unitarian Church. If you want a glance at the forum, surf over to http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/photo_gallery.htm -and take a look.

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.

The Environmental Clock Never Stops Ticking

Here are some recent environmental issues which need your help.

Political. Governor Pataki is playing slight of hand with the Environmental Protection Fund (see article below). Our Political Action Committee headed by Dr. Michael Dahl is working on this issue. If you want to help with this or other political issues call Michael at 586-4618.

Clean Water. The Conesus Lake Home Owners Association has a serious problem with weeds choking their docks and ruining swimming. They propose to solve this problem by application of Aquathol K, a defoliant designed for aquatic use. The only problem with this proposal is that Aquathol K contains the chemical endothall which has severe toxic effects on fish and other animal life as well as human beings. Have the home owners forgotten that Conesus Lake is a reservoir supplying drinking water to

18,000 people in the region? Laura Arney, head of our Clean Air/Clean Water Committee is working on this problem. If you want to help, call Laura at 334-8548.

Parks. The preservation of parks and open space has been one of our leading local concerns. We've worked for several years to assure continued public ownership of the Riverton Golf Course in Henrietta. Particularly important is guaranteeing public ownership and access to River Bend Nature Park which has trails in a large and beautiful part of the Genesee River. Henrietta Supervisor James Breese wants to sell these valuable public properties to a friend for approximately 12% of its real value. The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club has passed a resolution to make preservation of these rare public lands a state political action priority. We are working to stop Assemblyman Erico's

"park alienation" bill (Assembly A9120). You can help, particularly if you are a Rush - Henrietta resident. Call Assemblyman David Gantt 454-3670, David Koon 223-9130, or Joe Morelle 467-0410.

Pinnacle Hill. For more than four years the Rochester Regional Group has worked to create a new Pinnacle Hill Park, but we were unable to do more than preserve the hill in a kind of stalemate. Three acres of Pinnacle Hill on Field Street have now come up for sale and we are working with the Coalition for Pinnacle Hill Park seeking ways to buy it through a combined public/private venture. If you want to help preserve Riverton-Riverbend Park or create an Emerald Necklace for Rochester by establishing a new Pinnacle Hill Park call the Sierra Club at 244-2625.

Pataki Cuts Environment Fund Again

by Michael Dahl, Ph.D.

In December Governor Pataki proposed cutting \$100 million from the Environment Protection Fund. This month he proposed cutting the fund by \$200 million. This will effectively clean out the fund for two years. In addition, he is trying to shift \$60 million in other expenses into the fund, further reducing its effectiveness. New York already spends less per capita on the environment than any other state. Based on the last US Bureau of the Census data, New York spent \$18.88 per capita on the environment while California spent \$63.74, and even Texas Spent \$32.52. This is a very sorry record for this state. The Sierra Club's review of grant

applications reveals that the demands of key fund programs far outstrips proposed appropriations to the fund. Applications to the municipal parks grant program totals \$97 million as compared to \$10 million in combined funding proposed for fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003. Applications for local waterfront revitalization programs totals \$24 million as compared to \$10 million available for the same time period. An analysis of open space needs, based on the state open space plan, shows that \$300 million in open space funds are needed. The fund also supports municipal recycling and landfill closures, among other things.

In Praise of Elizabeth Thorndike

This July, the New York Parks & Conservation Association will honor Elizabeth Thorndike for her many efforts to protect and enhance the environment of New York State. Elizabeth Thorndike is a long time Sierra Club member and a founder of the Center for Environmental Information. She has worked for over 25 years to create and maintain CEI as a place where information and education can be stored and shared. Although her path has not been as mountainous or confrontational as many activists, she was one of the founding members of the local Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club and she has been one of our quiet, steadfast supporters. We should all honor the work of Elizabeth Thorndike for choosing the course of information and education, and for her steadfast belief that reason will prevail.

CALENDAR

June 9	Sunday	9:00 AM	Genesee Valley Greenway Hike (see page 1)	Call Laura at 334-8548 for info
June 13	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ²	St. John's Meadows ²
June 19	Wednesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
June 22	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Oatka Creek Park (see page 1)	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
June 26	Wednesday	7:30 PM	----- Energy Committee -----	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield ⁵
July 17	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
July 20	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Webster Bay Park (see page 1) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
July 24	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield ⁵
Aug. 8	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting ² -----	St. John's Meadows ²
Aug. 11	Sunday	1:00 PM	Outing: Canoeing on Black Creek (see page 1)	DEC Boat Launch, Black Creek Road
Aug. 11	Sunday		----- Eco-logue deadline -----	
Aug. 17	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Genesee County Park (see page 1)	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Aug. 21	Wednesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Aug. 28	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield ⁵
Sept. 14	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Braddock's Bay -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South
²Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.

⁴Call Laura Arney 334-8548 to confirm time & place
⁵Call Michael at 586-4618 for directions

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.