



eco-logue

One Earth
One Chance

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 30, No. 4
July/August 2000

OUR WATER:

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM? WHERE DOES IT GO?

Rochester Group Receives Grant to Explore Our Water

The Sierra Club has initiated a two-pronged project to learn about our water. With the help of a grant from the Atlantic Chapter, we will sponsor a series of outings to learn more about the sources of our water, and also a study the process by which we decide how and where the water will be distributed.

The first part of the project, called 'Water Explorers,' is designed to educate our members, particularly including member's children, about the waters in our Genesee bioregion. We define our bioregion as everything in our Genesee River watershed, but we will focus on discovering and tracing the waters of this region as they come from the sky to form streams, ponds, lakes, creeks and the Genesee River. We will take a number of trips to visit parts of the watershed such as going to Gold, Pennsylvania to see the headwaters of the Genesee as it comes out from under farmer Slabaugh's hillside. We will hike around the pure waters of the Canadice Lake reservoir and see deepwater wetlands. There will also be local visits to creeks and to Panorama Plaza to observe watershed problems first hand. (See 'Summer Outings' below).

In the second part of our project, summer college interns will be hard at work getting to know more about our water utilities and the sanitary waste water system. They will find out what legal reviews, public hearings, and other check-points take place before taxpayer funds are spent on pipe infrastructure for private suburban developments. Our goal is to publish a booklet describing the water review processes. This booklet will provide conservationists information on the legal steps that can be taken to encourage smart growth and discourage suburban sprawl.

To help facilitate this rather complex project we have been looking for two college student interns and we have succeeded, so far, in securing one volunteer. Merike Treier is entering her senior year at SUNY-Geneseo where she is concentrating on Environmental Studies, Geology and Cartography. She has an almost perfect background for this project and we are very pleased to have her help. We still need one more college or graduate level intern (See page 3).

SUMMER "WATER EXPLORER" OUTINGS

(All outings are free for members and are open to the public at a small charge.)

This summer and fall Sierra Club will run a series of outings to learn about the waters of our Genesee bioregion. These adventures are specially designed for families and children age five and over. We are fortunate to have the volunteer services of Mary Gleason, a conservationist and Earth Literacy teacher who specializes in childhood education and the environment. Mary will be our major guide to learning how the waters of our region connect us to place, identity, and nature. She will be assisted by our summer intern Merike Treier. There will be four outings in the series, three this summer and one in the fall. Together, they are a rare opportunity to gain a first hand appreciation of our water resources.

HIKE CANADICE LAKE, RESERVOIR & WETLANDS

Saturday, July 15th. 8:30am to 3:00pm

High in the Finger Lakes hills, pristine Canadice Lake is a primary source of Rochester's water supply. We will enjoy the natural beauty of this undeveloped area in an easy hike (about 3 miles) along the lakeshore and see the magnificent wetland at the lake's southern end. We'll learn the natural history of the area and gain an understanding of watersheds and the value of wetlands. We'll also learn about the city's water supply system. We will meet at 8:30am at the lower parking lot of the First Unitarian Church (220 So. Winton Rd.) to car pool to Canadice Lake. Route maps will be available. Bring hiking sneakers, insect repellent, water, and a bag lunch for a picnic lunch on the shore. (Continued on page 2)



FROM THE CHAIR

by Hugh Mitchell

Surely you have heard that old saying, "There's nothing that succeeds like success." Our local Sierra Club group has now grown to nearly 2,000 members. We don't really know why, but perhaps one reason is because we have been involved with so many issues that have had a fair share of success. Let me list some.

For more than two years the Sierra Club has been a member of the Coalition for Pinnacle Hill Park. Although we have not yet succeeded in our ultimate goal of creating a new public park to fit as the crown jewel in the Emerald Necklace, there has been definite progress related to the preservation of Pinnacle Hill. There are no new mansions on Pinnacle looming over the city, as a developer was planning. The Sierra Club continues to play a key role in this unfolding drama.

This spring the Sierra Club helped lead another collection of groups interested in keeping public 123 acres of Henrietta River Bend (nature) Park and Riverton Golf Course. We helped by circulating petitions, organizing neighbors, running tours and outings, and holding a town meeting focused on lobbying Representative David Gantt and other legislators to think carefully about introducing a bill that would permit the park sale. As of this date the NYS legislature has adjourned with no bill introduced.

Gilly Burlingham again led our annual effort to help Kodak "be all it can be" by again proposing a "green friendly" stockholder resolution from the floor of the annual meeting. Gilly reports that she had a nice (if brief) conversation with outgoing CEO George Fisher reminding him that she would like to take him out to lunch and talk about the environment. He agreed to a meeting that is now being established with in-coming CEO Dan Carp. Gilly and Judy Robinson of the Citizen's Environmental Coalition will represent the environmentalists, but lunch might have to wait. There's too much to talk about.

A key reason for our recent string of successes has been our hard working Executive Committee ("the Ex-Com"). Limited print space prevents me from thanking all the deserving board members, but some of the unsung strength behind the Sierra Club involves the following people. Chris Hayes serves in a critical capacity as our Conservation Chairperson, spokesperson for the Wetlands Committee, and as our representative to the Atlantic Chapter Board. He continues to go a great job. Ray Nelson has not retired. He continues to give major support by serving as chairperson of our Communications Committee and editor of this Eco-logue. Most members may not know Paul Neumann and Dave Ruekberg but they are vitally important for their contributions in fund raising and treasury. Paul has quietly helped for a number of years making so many of our activities possible by raising the necessary funds. Dave keeps the books straight and dispenses checks. Together they are planning a major fund raising Fall Festival scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. (See page 3)

Every organization needs people like these willing to do the unglamorous work of setting policy and running the group. Our Rochester regional environment is better off for having such dedicated Sierra Club volunteers. I believe I speak for the whole group when I say, "We send you hearty thanks."

SUMMER OUTINGS (Cont. from page 1)

EXPLORE IRONDEQUOIT CREEK VALLEY Thursday, July 27th. 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Explore the Irondequoit Creek valley in the Panorama/Ellison Park area. We'll learn the fascinating geologic history of this valley, the original pathway of the Genesee River. We will also look at the natural dynamics of a flood plain, it's value to the watershed, and why development can be disastrous to all its inhabitants, including humans. An example of this is Panorama Plaza, the proposed site of a major new dike. We will also stroll along the beautiful banks of Irondequoit Creek in Ellison Park. There are several shelters you can use if you want to have a picnic supper before the hike. Bring hiking sneakers and insect repellent. Our car pool will leave the lower parking lot of First Unitarian Church (220 So. Winton Rd) at 6pm; or you can meet us in front of Tops Market in Panorama Plaza at 6:15pm.

OATKA PARK AND CREEK OUTING Tuesday, August 15th. 6:00pm to 9:00pm

We will hike Oatka County Park in Scottsville, 461 acres of undeveloped, richly diverse habitat. It contains an abundance of plant species, some 75 species of nesting birds, and a variety of ecosystems including successional fields, hardwood forests, and wetlands. Oatka Creek is filled with brown trout and is an important watershed within the larger Genesee watershed. This magnificent jewel could be threatened by adjacent development if the proposed NYS Thruway exit in North Chili is approved. Meet at First Unitarian Church (220 So. Winton Rd) before 6pm for car-pooling. For up-to-the-minute specific details call Sierra Club message line 420-4363.

FALL OUTING: GENESEE HEADWATERS

This will be a Saturday outing to the headwaters of the Genesee River at Gold, Pennsylvania. We will visit farmer Slabaugh's field where you can actually see the tiny Genesee flowing out from under a hill in the mysterious ritual of the birth of a river. Details of this outing will appear in the September edition of the Eco-logue, our web site, and on our message phone 420-4363.

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.

GET SIERRA CLUB NEWS ON E-MAIL

A new service for local club members is in the works. The latest environmental news, notices of events, and action alerts for local issues will be sent via e-mail as they become available. Often this kind of information comes to us on such short notice that it's impossible to get it to you via our newsletter. Additionally, we plan to make the Eco-logue newsletter available via e-mail if there is sufficient interest. To make the new system work, we need e-mail addresses for all interested members. If you would like to try this out, just send your e-mail address to:

e2s@cyber1.servtech.com

Do it today. We promise not to overload you with trivia.

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERN NEEDED

June – September 2000

Do you want to do direct work for our environment and earn a Sierra Club certificate and letter of recommendation? The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra needs a college or grad student intern (or environmental volunteer) to help staff a project called "One Club: Water Explorers." This project will develop a "How to" booklet on stopping sprawl and will sponsor several outings to explore our Genesee bioregion.

Desirable majors include Environmental Studies, Earth Science, Geography, Geology, Biology, Cartography or other environmentally related major or minor. Sierra Club non-student volunteers who may want to learn environmental activism are also welcome to apply. No pay. Gain a Sierra Club certificate and letter of reference for the future. If you are interested, contact Co-chairperson Hugh Mitchell: e-mail hmitch@frontiernet.net or phone: 244-2625.

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP OFFICERS

Co-Chair	Gilly Burlingham	237-6378
Co-Chair	Hugh Mitchell	244-2625
Secretary	Sarah Boyce Fasick	582-3194
Treasurer	Dave Ruekberg	538-6463
Conservation & BOG Rep.	Chris Hayes	244-5267
Membership	Ginny Tyler	244-4084
Outings		
Fund Raising	Paul Neumann	266-5376
Wetlands	George Parker	244-1040
Publicity	Frank Regan	271-0816
Communications	Ray Nelson	342-2734



GET READY FOR THE FALL FESTIVAL

It always seems unlikely at the beginning of summer that you could ever wish for cold weather. But then, by August, when the days are *still* hot and dry, you begin to ache a little for a falling leaf, for the pungent smells of apples and pumpkins....

Whether that is or isn't what you long for in August, it's not too early to mark your calendars *now* for the Rochester Sierra Club's **Fall Festival** on October 14.

What cheer can you expect that evening? Plan to:

- Munch on delectable catered *hors d'oeuvres* and other dishes
- Satisfy your sweet tooth with homemade *desserts* (did somebody say *Pumpkin Pie*?)
- Enlarge your spirit with mulled cider and other *cheery beverages*
- *Bid* on coveted articles and services in our Silent Auction (see article below)
- Enjoy live *music*

And remember – while you're having fun, you're helping your local Sierra Club. We're dedicated to increasing the level of our commitment to organizing nature hikes, educational programs, and environmental protection in our region. You can help, simply by coming down and having a good time!

Watch for the next issue of the *Eco-Logue* for more details. For now, make a note of it!

Also, if you would like to donate something of value for our Silent Auction, we'd be grateful (see article below). It's a great way for you to advertise your business, or just to help your club. Meanwhile, mark your calendars!

Date: Saturday, October 14

Place: Tay House, Cobb's Hill Park, Rochester, NY.

WANTED: YOUR VALUABLES

Donations are needed for the Silent Auction at the Fall Festival (see above article). We're looking for items of value for this important fund-raising event. It's a great way to advertise your business, or just to help your Club! The following are just a few of the kinds of goods and services that make good auction items (we prefer new items – except for antiques!):

- Artwork and photography
- Antiques
- Camping equipment
- Home furnishings & decorations
- Sports equipment
- Electronics
- Tickets (theater, sports, travel, etc. – transferable only!)
- Gift Certificates – Recreational (dining, shopping, etc.)
- Gift Certificates – Services (massage, investments, tutoring, landscaping, etc.)
- ...whatever your creative mind can dream up!

Please contact Paul Neumann (266-5376; paul_neumann@globalcrossing.com) or David Ruekberg (538-6463; davidr@netacc.net) for more information, and to arrange for your donations to be picked up.

Rochester Regional Group
of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 39516
Rochester, NY 14604-9516

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CALENDAR

July 6	Thursday	7:00 PM	Kodak Kandid Coalition ⁴	Downtown United Pres. Church
July 13	Thursday	5:30 PM	----- Ex-Com meeting ¹ -----	St. John's Meadows ²
July 13	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	439 Tara Lane, Webster
July 15	Saturday	8:30 AM	----- Outing: Canadice Lake (see page 1) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church
July 27	Thursday	6:00 PM	Outing: Irondequoit Creek (see page 2)	meet at First Unitarian Church
Aug. 3	Thursday	7:00 PM	----- Kodak Kandid Coalition -----	6 Sibley Pl.
Aug. 10	Thursday	6:00 PM	Ex-Com Meeting ¹	3558 Oatka Creek Rd., LeRoy ³
Aug. 15	Tuesday	6:00 PM	----- Outing: Oatka Park and Creek -----	Meet at First Unitarian Church
Aug. 15	Tuesday		Eco-logue deadline	
Aug. 17	Thursday	7:15 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Aug. 27	Sunday	7:00 PM	Eco-logue Mailing	6 Sibley Pl.

¹ Ex-Com meetings are open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.

² Call Ginny Tyler, 244-4084 for directions (members invited)

³ Call Dave Ruekberg, 538-6463 for directions

⁴ Call Gilly Burlingham, 237-6378, for more information

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.