



14th Annual Environmental Forum

Our Water's Fragile Future: Hydrofracking, Climate Change, & Privatization

Co-sponsored by: Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Church of Rochester

Water! Our fresh water! Here in upstate New York, clean potable water is one of the most abundant and important of our resources. We live in the Great Lakes Basin, on the shore of bountiful Lake Ontario and near the beautiful Finger Lakes. We use these lakes as sources of drinking water and are fortunate to be able to do so. But along with the rest of the world, we may soon face challenges that end easy access to abundant fresh water for all.

New York State may begin this year to permit hydrofracking for natural gas. Hydrofracking uses 3 to 9 million gallons of fresh water each time a well is "fracked" (USGS). Many thousands of wells could be drilled in New York State and fracked on multiple occasions. Where will all of that fresh water come from? How and where will the toxic wastewater be processed?

Similarly, climate change plays a role in how water throughout the world is distributed. Our area is expected to see more precipitation in winters, drier summers, and increased extreme storm events. The Upper Great Lakes have already experienced a drop in precipitation and lower groundwater levels. Lake levels have also been on the decline and could drop another two feet within decades (UCS).



It is estimated that only 1% of the water that makes up the Great Lakes is replenished by precipitation each year. Exacerbating the problem, groundwater is being drawn down without regulation. In the past 40 years, the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan/Uzbekistan, formerly the world's fourth largest lake, has been drained 90% to grow cotton in the desert. That's the equivalent volume of Lake Huron and Lake Erie combined! Could the same thing happen to our Great Lakes or Finger Lakes?

As water becomes more scarce and more valuable, private companies are buying the rights to fresh water, also known as "privatization," in order to sell it to the highest bidder, leaving those who can't pay without. How well will our water supply be protected by the existing Great Lakes Compact, the proposed lake level plan (BV7), and the new NYS water withdrawal regulations? Will there be wars fought over our water? Will our children have the same access to clean water that we do? How do we prevent our water from becoming a commodity and restore it back to the common good for future generations?

Join us for an evening with Jim Olson, a Michigan environmental attorney who has been fighting for 40 years for everyone's right to the clean water that sustains life (read more about Olson on p. 3). He will discuss the multiple affronts to our water cycle and provide us with concrete ways we can restore and protect it. Jim is not only the foremost U.S. legal expert on this topic, but is also a passionate and entertaining speaker. You don't want to miss the Forum!

Following his presentation, Jim Olson will join a **panel of guests** to answer questions from the audience. The panel will include **Roger Downs**, Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter Conservation Program Director and our chief Albany lobbyist, and **Rita Yelda**, who works for Food and Water Watch in Buffalo, and is founder of WNY Drilling Defense.

First Unitarian Church of Rochester
220 Winton Road South

Suggested donation: \$3-15 appreciated but not required

Thursday, April 19, 2012

5:30pm: Doors open

- Network with and learn from 30+ local organizations
- Local, sustainably produced food and drink available for purchase

7pm: Formal Program

9pm: Adjourn



From the Chair: Money's Influence - What Do We Do?

Whether your concern is for the environment, or for some other worthy related issue (everything is connected to the environment, after all), the root of the problem is the influence of money. Our politicians are beholden to the special interests that get them elected, including Dirty Coal, Big Oil, the gas industry, the “defense” industry, and others. The situation is worse now than it’s ever been. In January 2010, in the *Citizens United versus Federal Elections Commission* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that corporations can spend unlimited amounts of money to support or attack a candidate, as long as their efforts are not coordinated with the campaign. The national Sierra Club organization has taken a public position denouncing the *Citizens United* decision, and has endorsed the **Move to Amend** (movetoamend.org) effort that calls for a Constitutional Amendment to reverse the decision. The Amendment would also eliminate corporate personhood and assert that money is not the same as free speech. Your Rochester Regional Group has endorsed Move To Amend. The effort is a grassroots one, as our leaders have no incentive to take action- rather, just the opposite. Sign the petition, get involved: movetoamendrochester.org. We can’t make progress on environmental issues without also addressing this root problem.

If you’re paying attention to the news at all, you know that government is not the only arena where money has influence. The Sierra Club’s Executive Director Michael Brune has recently disclosed acceptance of about \$26 million from the natural gas industry between 2007 and 2010, prior to his taking the organization’s reigns. Add to this the fact that at the national level, Sierra Club’s official natural gas policy does not come down as harshly on hydro-fracking (“fracking”) for natural gas as many grassroots activists who are seeking to ban it completely. In fact, the Club had been calling natural gas a good “bridge fuel” for the transition from Dirty Coal to renewable energy. Now, Brune is using harsher words about gas drilling, and has overseen a change in Club policy that would prohibit such donations. We welcome the transparency that Brune has introduced, and support his efforts to get the Club on the right track regarding natural gas policy.

As you know, our Rochester Regional Group and the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter (NY state level organization of which we are a part, along with 10 other Groups) have been very active on the anti-fracking front for the last few years. In fact, the Atlantic Chapter has been tirelessly working within the Club to allow Chapters to set their own policy on fracking within their jurisdictions. They are

also pushing National to change its policy “so that it unequivocally opposes hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas.” The Chapter was one of three organizations that together organized a major lobbying day in Albany regarding fracking — where the mantra of the day was “Ban Fracking Now!” The Chapter has also circulated a petition state-wide asking Governor Cuomo to “halt” fracking, while listing its dangers. Our Rochester Regional Group alone was responsible for over 800 signatures on the petition, more than any other group except for the NY City Group. And of course, we have raised awareness and motivated folks to take action via Gasland showings and our Frack Alert e-mail list. While the national Club works through the fallout from money’s influence, here in Rochester and across the state we are working diligently to ensure that the hazards of fracking do not come here.

For yet another hint at money’s influence—even on our access to clean water—see the article “Lake Levels and the Common Good” on page 5, and join us at the Environmental Forum on April 19. Hope to see you there!

Linda

Linda Isaacson Fedele
Chairperson, Sierra Club
Rochester Regional Group

Transition Rochester

Transition Rochester was formed after the 2010 Sierra Club annual forum on transitioning to a sustainable locally based lifestyle. We are now a small group of people, in Rochester and the surrounding area, who meet monthly, and are interested in promoting local sustainability using Rob Hopkins’ Transition

Initiatives approach. Interestingly, Rochester already has most of the component Transition efforts already under way. We ran a six-month program via the Pittsford Library called Sustainable Living: Surviving Oil Depletion and Liking It!

We would welcome more interested members to flesh out and contribute ideas. We are considering making a comic book, a video, etc. to spread the message in a way people can understand. Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 11. Call 442-5829 for more information.



About Jim Olson, Speaker at the 14th Annual Environmental Forum

Attorney Jim Olson represented the Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation (MCWC) of Mecosta County in their successful struggle to reduce over pumping from Nestle’s bottling operation, which was adversely affecting the Little Muskegon River and the level of two lakes. Jim is also the chairperson of **FLOW for Water** (www.flowforwater.org), a coalition of environmental groups that work to protect water as a “common good” for future generations, through the legal and political structure of the Public Trust Doctrine. Jim appeared in the film *Blue Gold: World Water Wars*.

Facts, Not Emotion

by Steve Coffman

Citizens opposed to hydrofracking are often told that their arguments are based on emotions instead of fact — as opposed to gas company “facts.” For instance, take their constant claim that hydrofracking is a “perfectly safe” technology.

Here are two recent facts:

3,355 Marcellus violations in four years

The PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center (February 9, 2012) released a new study documenting 3,355 violations by gas operators in the Marcellus over the last four years. Between 2008 and 2011, energy companies drilled a total of 4,596 new wells in Pennsylvania and, says Erika Staaf of PennEnvironment, they “are either unable or unwilling to comply with basic environmental laws.”

Does that sound “perfectly safe” to you?

And do you really think that every spill was reported? That no other leaks occurred in wells or pipelines underground? That no toxic discharges or fugitive emissions took place when no one was looking? That none of those 4,596 wells (or the tens of thousands yet to come) will leak in the future?

That the same technologies employed by the same companies will magically be “perfectly safe” as soon as they cross the line from PA to NY?

Millennium Pipeline has disturbing “defects”

According to a ProPublica report (August 2011), the U.S. Department of Transportation ordered the owners of the Millennium Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline that runs through the southern tier, to fix disturbing “defects” that could cause leaks or explosions.

Pipeline safety expert and consultant, Richard Kuprewicz, said an explosion on the line could be significantly larger than the one that killed eight people in San Bruno, CA because the Millennium operates at more than double the pressure.

A review by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration found that the leak was the result of a faulty weld that hadn’t passed inspection, but had been installed anyway.

Do reports such as these stir up emotions? Absolutely. But emotions are only suspect if the facts that support them are untrue. Emotions such as fear, caution and anger that are kindled by real threats based on factual information are both justified and called for.

There is all the difference in the world between facts based on emotions, and emotions resulting from unsettling facts.

Steve Coffman is a founding member of the Committee to Preserve the Finger Lakes, and The Watershed Action Committees of Keuka Lake.

LOCALIZATION: ECONOMY, FOOD, and ENERGY Series

Brighton Town Hall
Lower Auditorium
2300 Elmwood Avenue,
Rochester 14618

6:30: Network at informational tables by co-sponsors

7:00: Formal Program begins
We are proud to be one of ten regional organizations sponsoring this 4-part series. All events are free of charge; donations welcomed. The two remaining events are:

March 21: *Greenhorns*, a documentary film, explores the lives of America’s young farming community - spirit, practices and needs - building a case for those considering a career in agriculture. This movie, as the others, will be followed by a panel discussion. Two young women farmers will participate in this, among others.

April 18: *Empowered*, a regionally produced film exploring how innovative Tompkins County citizens are exploring renewable energy options in solar, wind, geothermal and vegetable oil. This documentary shows how a community is banding together to work for energy independence. Film producer, Suzanne McMannis, who with her husband has lived off the grid for 10 years will participate in the panel following the film.

Experimenting with CO2 is a “Gas”

by Peter Debes, Vice Chair

All this talk of carbon footprints and carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas can be pretty ethereal to kids. It is an interesting gas and you can do some very intriguing quick experiments with your kids to make it more real. Judge how much you wish to do based on your children's ages (I recommend 8 and older for the flame test part below).

Pure carbon dioxide is heavier than air, so it settles to the bottom of a container, and can be poured like water—but is invisible. It has no odor either. One place to get carbon dioxide easily is the grocery store. Seltzer water! (Use unflavored seltzer) You can show that under pressure, a lot of carbon dioxide dissolves in water. When you unscrew the cap, you can hear the hiss as the pressure is released, but then, look at all the bubbles that start coming out! In fact, ask your kids if they could

measure how much came out of the 1 liter bottle. Here's one way—put a clear plastic bag over the top of the bottle, squeeze all the air out of it and seal it to the bottle with a rubber band so no gas can escape. Then, grab the cap (inside the bag) and twist it loose. Watch the bag inflate. You'll find the bag gets about as big as the bottle, or bigger! The gas comes out a lot more quickly if you shake the bottle before opening it.

Have the kids taste the seltzer water and see how it has a bit of a sour taste. That is because the gas forms a weak acid in the water, one of the dangers for the oceans as the gas increases in our air.

Finally, show what pure carbon dioxide will do to a candle. Put the candle in a large glass bowl. Trim the wick so it is very short, and light it. Slide a cookie tray over most of the bowl and take your plastic bag of gas, gently open a

little corner to be the spout, and slowly pour the invisible gas into the bowl. If you do it carefully and gently, the gas should invisibly pour into the bowl, pooling at the bottom and when its level reaches the flame of the candle, put it out! Kids could take one little whiff of a smell from the gas that came out of the seltzer bottle to see it has no smell. In large quantities, carbon dioxide can “put out” a living animal just like a candle and is very dangerous.

This activity obviously has potential risks if kids were to try it on their own, so reinforce that these experiments can only be done with an adult.

Correction:

The event referred to in the Dec, 2011-Feb. 2012 Ecologue article *Ellison Park Damaged by Mountain Bike Race* was actually a Cyclocross Race.

The ClimAid Report, a Baseline for Understanding Climate Change in Our Region

By Frank Regan

No doubt you have read the winter 2012 Sierra Atlantic's article “Scientists assess climate change” on the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) -funded “Response to Climate Change in New York State (ClimAID).” The Sierra Atlantic article, reprinted from the Cornell News Service, is a good encapsulation of the ClimAID report and describes what's in store for New York State as Climate Change affects our Northeast climate. Much is going to change on many fronts: public health, water resources, coastal zones, ecosystems, agriculture, energy, transportation and telecommunications.

The case is stated in the Introduction:

New York State is already

experiencing impacts as a result of climate change, and impacts are projected to increase with further warming. At the same time, the state has great adaptive capacity to address them. From the Great Lakes to Long Island Sound, from the Adirondacks to the Susquehanna Valley, climate change will affect the people and resources of New York State.

What makes the ClimAID report so important is that NYSERDA -- our energy authority in New York State -- has to assess all the possible warming scenarios in our region. The size and breadth of the ClimAID report not only covers the issues above, but weaves into it vulnerabilities (the degree to which systems are susceptible to, and unable to cope with,

adverse impacts of climate change), equity, and economics—how we might possibly pay for these very expensive solutions.

I suggest a full reading of the 600+ page document as there is nothing to compare with it for the public to gain a full understanding of the complications involved in Climate Change in our region, written by one of the agencies charged with addressing it. Rather than proposing a few tweaks here and there, our energy authority fully understands how everything—insurance rates, water issues, the timing of pollinators, the special needs of those with economic and health issues, and much more—must be understood by an informed public before necessary action can be taken.

Lake Levels and the Common Good

by Kate Kremer, Co-Chair
Great Lakes Committee

The Great Lakes, including Lake Ontario, are in crisis. The human impact on Lake Ontario has grown so large that it is putting the future viability of a healthy lake at risk. A discussion of the current “lake level” issue exemplifies how we can engage in solutions that are for the common good of the environment and the people who live in it.

Since 1958, Lake Ontario has had a human-regulated water level for the purpose of protecting lake shore land owners and providing optimal water levels for the Montreal Harbor, shipping and hydroelectric power. Lake water level regulation has not historically taken into consideration the health of the ecosystem. Little fluctuation and higher water levels have destroyed many wetlands and decreased species diversity. The International Joint Commission (IJC), the Canadian and American body responsible for setting water level policy, has worked diligently for several years on this issue, eliciting local citizen and governmental agency feedback. The IJC recently proposed a new lake level plan that is being called “BV7” that addresses some of the limitations of earlier policy by restoring some of the natural flow and fluctuation. The public comment period ends June 15, 2012. (www.ijc.org/loslr/en/index.php)

This is positive progress and yet how did we continue for 50 years taking into consideration the needs of some stakeholders but not the health of the lake itself? Without an overall policy, we cannot adequately protect the rights of the public and of future generations to a healthy lake that can be used for multiple purposes by both individuals and the community. Jim Olson, the keynote speaker at our Sierra Club Forum on April 19, will discuss principles

of public trust and how we can apply them to protecting our water as a common good in Western New York.

Water has always been the lifeblood of a society. Ancient cities were built along great rivers to provide for agriculture, hygiene and transportation. Peoples of ancient times were so keenly attuned to their reliance on water that they established the basic principle that waterways are owned in common and must be available for multiple uses by citizens. Jim Olson and Maude Barlow in their Report to the International Joint Commission on the Principles of the Public Trust Doctrine (November 30, 2011) trace this principle to the Codes of Rome and then to the Magna Carta and highlight it as a viable tool for protecting our water today. Olson and Barlow quote the Justinian Codes of Rome in 529 A.D.: “The following things are by natural law common to all – the air, running water, the sea and consequently the sea shore... but they cannot be said to belong to any one as private property, but rather are subject to the same law as the sea itself...” They explain how this “Public Trust Doctrine” has been adopted by the federal government and state legislatures and upheld by the courts in the United States.

In the case of the Great Lakes States, Barlow and Olson have outlined ways in which each state has laws, regulations and court cases that establish the principle of public trust related to waters. For example, they quote New York State’s Environmental Conservation Law as follows: “all the waters of the state are valuable public natural resources held in trust by this state, and this state has a duty as trustee to manage its waters effectively for the use and enjoyment of present and future residents and for the protection of the environment.” N.Y. Environmental Conservation

Law section 15-1601 (McKinney 2011). The Public Trust Doctrine is a powerful tool that can provide a framework for viewing the long term health of the lake in every action that we take. It can give us the authority to fight against all actions that constitute a “taking” of the water and to fight any actions that would limit the use of the water by the public.

. This is especially important as we look at these new standards recently put forth by the IJC as to how we will determine the levels of Lake Ontario for the next 50 years. There will be many interests that will speak in response to the document. The Public Trust Doctrine can help us to weigh these voices against the common good of the public to a clean and healthy lake that is sustained into the future. This will benefit all the stakeholders, public and private, and can provide common ground for moving forward.

The Great Lakes Committee meets monthly and works together to educate ourselves and the community, and provide advocacy on local and regional Great Lakes issues like the BV7 lake level plan. Come join us!

Newsletter Mailing Party - Join Us!

This just might be the easiest way to get to know a small number of fellow members in a no-pressure situation. A handful of us get together quarterly to stick mailing labels on the soon-to-be-mailed Ecologue newsletter. We enjoy snacks and good conversation.

Our next mailing party is:

Tuesday, May 29, 6:30pm -- the day after Memorial Day

For location: Leave message at 585-234-1056 or email lci_msw@hotmail.com

Hope to meet you there!

Book Review

Graeme Taylor, *Evolution's Edge: the coming collapse and transformation of our world.*

Review by Hugh Mitchell

The dust jacket asks, "Are we on the brink of catastrophe or the edge of evolution?" Growing resource shortages threaten to destroy the world economy, runaway global warming threatens to destroy much of life on earth and the world's leading climate scientists warn that humanity has only a few years left to prevent disaster. Graeme Taylor holds a realistic view that the future presents both an immense challenge and a wonderful opportunity. From the crisis a new type of sustainable civilization is emerging which can accelerate the evolutionary process through uniting around ethical, constructive views and values. If you can get through the initial review of the shocking facts about the growing global crisis later chapters focus on transformative and constructive responses.

As regional and global crises grow and the world economy begins to fail, it becomes increasingly clear to people all over the world that the current global system is unsustainable and heading for catastrophic

collapse. More and more people will then question the values and institutions of the industrial system and begin to look for constructive alternatives - pathways to survival.

Taylor is unflinching in laying out the facts about the crisis we are facing in terms of world populations, growing overconsumption, unsustainable growth rates related to available global resources. Throughout the book his facts are made easier to grasp by a series of wonderful illustrations and charts. He lays out three possible future scenarios: rapid collapse, delayed collapse (emergency measures to stabilize the industrial system) or transformation.

The solution is straightforward. We need to transform the currently unsustainable system into a sustainable system. As Taylor points out, "The real bottom line is not financial profits but survival, and our survival is utterly dependent on our environments." The major challenge, as Taylor defines it, is can a new paradigm emerge rapidly enough to reverse the

growing trends toward collapse.

Hope is to be found in the signs of evolutionary societal changes which are all around us. This is not just the promise of new technologies, because technology alone will not save us, but also in new social movements and philosophies which are creating a new level of world consciousness. Nature is the key ...

As long as we have a world-view which believes that human economies exist outside of nature, we won't be able to accurately see either the problems or the solutions. But once we make the paradigm shift and begin to recognize that human economies are completely dependent upon their environments, preserving healthy ecosystems becomes an imperative.

Taylor holds that the very process of collapse will allow views, values and social structures to be reorganized into a more viable system. We have to believe that rapid positive change is not only possible but is actually taking place. I recommend this book.

Pick Up the Parks with Sierra Club - April 28

By Denise Speicher

I have enjoyed picking up the parks in Monroe County for many years. I picked up trash at Ontario Beach Park last year, at Ellison Park the year before, and at Irondequoit Bay for a couple years before that. After living in other areas of the country where parks weren't so beautiful and so well maintained I especially appreciate our Monroe County parks. From the Monroe County parks website:

"Today the Parks Department operates 21 parks totaling nearly 12,000 acres. Almost all 21 County Parks have picnic and hiking areas and most are equipped with sports facilities, shelters and lodges."

That's a lot of land to maintain! I want to do my part by helping as often as I can. Our parks can be enjoyed in all seasons--I will walk my dogs in Ellison Park this cold winter day. As a result

of the parks' year round accessibility there is an inevitable amount of litter that (I prefer to think) was inadvertently dropped. When I had kids at home, we enjoyed Pick Up the Parks together. Now, I do it by myself, but look forward to working together with fellow Sierra Club members. Rain or shine, with others or by yourself, you will feel good about cleaning up our beautiful parks. Please join us.

Please register with us to participate. Our team has been assigned to Durand Eastman Park, where we will meet at 8:30-9am for hot coffee and some breakfast snacks prior to our work. Join us there and meet some fellow members!

Or, if one of the other parks is more convenient for you, go ahead and help there, but please still register with us. We'd like our members to turn out in large numbers! In the afternoon, there will be free lunch and a fair for partici-

pants from all of the parks. Pick Up will also take place at: Churchville, Genesee Valley, Northampton, Powder Mills, Seneca, and Webster Parks. To register: email lci_msw@hotmail.com or leave a voicemail message: 585-234-1056.

City Recognizes Volunteers in the Washington Grove

By Peter Debes, Vice Chair

On Jan. 31, City of Rochester officials met with volunteers who have assisted the City's efforts to restore and protect the forest known as the Washington Grove at Cobb's Hill Park. This forest is a unique treasure with giant oaks and tulip trees and black cherries over 250 years old. The event was hosted by The Friends of Washington Grove who provided food and refreshments. Jim Farr, the Assistant director of Recreation, reviewed the progress that has been made since the City adopted a work plan on this project that was initiated by the Sierra Club with the City in 2009.

In just two years, almost half of the 25 acres have been cleared of invasive Norway and sycamore maples which had begun to crowd out the native species. City foresters under the direction of Brian Liberti, cut larger trees with chain saws which created a major visual disturbance on the forest floor. Volunteers were recruited by The Friends of Washington Grove steering committee to lop down branches, greatly improv-

ing the visual impact, and also to saw trunks into smaller pieces for lining the trails. Commissioner of Environmental Services Paul Holahan admitted that much more was accomplished than he had thought possible and that the follow-up work could not have been done without volunteer help. Chris Wagner, Director of Operations and Karen St. Aubin of Environmental Services were also present to thank the volunteers.

The statistics collected since the project began two years ago are impressive:

1. A total of 44 individuals donated at least 2 hrs of time in 2011
2. A total of 154.25 person hours were worked by these people in 2011
3. Since the project began, volunteers have secured \$2000.00 in grant money, including \$500 from the Sierra Club, and another \$300 in donated native species.
4. Grant money was used to purchase 103 native trees, shrubs and wildflowers to help restore the Grove. Their sites have

been recorded for posterity by GPS.

5. A scientific analysis of the Grove was done by a graduate student at Brockport at no cost to the City through the effort of Peter Debes, co-facilitator for the project.
6. Two Boy Scout projects have resulted in the design and construction of a kiosk valued at \$500 and the donation and planting of native species by Troop 19 as a result of efforts of volunteers.
7. Three large areas covered by the invasive winter creeper (a kind of Euonymus) were uprooted in 2011 by volunteers freeing up new areas for native wildflowers.

The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club salutes the volunteers and thanks them for helping to preserve the Grove for future generations. We also thank our members, for your donations and support to the Sierra Club have been vital to this project.

MOVIE SHOWING Gas Prices Going Up: Why?

**Thursday, March 15
7:00 - 9:00 PM**

by Mike Rudnick

Gas prices have been increasing for more than a decade, with some wild gyrations along the way. Is this likely to be a long-term trend?

To help answer this question, a free showing of *Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash* is offered by Beechwood Transition Initiative and Juanita Ball (482-5419) at the **Thomas Ryan Community Center, 360 Webster Avenue, in Rochester, 7-9 pm, Thursday, March 15.** Juanita is planning to have free popcorn on hand!

Crude Awakening is a 2006 documentary by award-winning filmmakers Basil Gelpke and Ray McCormack. It examines our worldwide dependence on petroleum and the possible consequences of peaking petroleum production.

Rochester Sierra Club Outings Spring, 2012

Come learn about local terrain & Spring flora!

**Saturday, April 14th, 9:30am
Devil's Bathtub & Esker Views**

Enjoy unusual terrain and high view trails, for one of the more pleasant combination trails in Mendon Ponds Park, the jewel of the Monroe County Park System. Howard Camp.
Difficulty: moderate

**Saturday, May 12th, 9:30am
Webster Bay Park**

Scrambling over hills and valleys to the east of Irondequoit Bay, this outing celebrates the emergence of spring with rare, up close views of the bay, as well as exploration of beautiful and little-known hills and valleys. Howard Camp.
Difficulty: moderate to strenuous

To register for a hike and get meeting directions, call 473-1410.



**Rochester Regional Group
of the Sierra Club**
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 Find the Rochester Regional Group
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Spring 2012 Calendar

All Committees are local volunteer groups of the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club

Date	Day	Time	Calendar/Event	Place
March 5	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
March 6	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School Library
March 15	Thursday	7:00 pm	Crude Awakening: The Oil Crash	Thomas Ryan Community Ctr 530 Webster Ave.
March 21	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Localization: Economy, Food, & Energy Series: Greenhorns	Brighton Town Hall, Lower Auditorium 2300 Elmwood Ave.
March 12	Monday	6:30 pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	Crossroads Coffeehouse 752 South Goodman St.
March 27	Tuesday	4:30 pm	Zero Waste Committee	494 East Ave
March 27	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School Library
April 2	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
April 9	Monday	7:00 pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	Crossroads Coffeehouse 752 South Goodman St.
April 14	Saturday	9:30 am	Sierra Club Outing: Devil's Bathtub and Esker Views	Call 585-473-1410 for meeting directions
April 18	Wednesday	6:30 pm	Localization: Economy, Food, & Energy Series: Empowered	Brighton Town Hall, Lower Auditorium 2300 Elmwood Ave.
April 19	Thursday	5:30 - 9:00 pm	14th Annual Environmental Forum	First Unitarian Church 220 Winton Rd. South
April 24	Tuesday	4:30 pm	Zero Waste Committee	494 East Ave
April 24	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School Library
April 28	Saturday	8:30 am	Pick Up the Parks	Durand Eastman Park (see p. 6)
May 7	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., Suite 600
May 12	Saturday	9:30 am	Sierra Club Outing: Webster Bay Park	Call 585-473-1410 for meeting directions
May 14	Monday	7:00 pm	Global Warming & Energy Committee Meeting	Crossroads Coffeehouse 752 South Goodman St.
May 22	Tuesday	4:30 pm	Zero Waste Committee	494 East Ave
May 22	Tuesday	7:00 pm	Great Lakes Committee Meeting	12 Corners Middle School Library
May 29	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Newsletter Mailing Party	For location, e-mail lci_msw@hotmail.com or leave a message at 585-234-1056

All Executive Committee meetings
are open to Sierra Club members.

The Eco-Logue is printed on 100% recycled paper with green plant-based toner.