



How to Vote

By Robert Withers

Voting is important. We vote in many ways. The first Tuesday in November, we vote with a ballot. If you can and you care, you must vote. Not because any candidate or issue on the ballot will fix the many troubles we face – though some will make them worse. We must vote because it puts our name in a special column when we talk to our elected officials: Voter. It is public record whether you vote, and they check. It matters to them.

We vote most days with a vote counted much more precisely than our ballots. Our dollars. An important and powerful vote indeed. It is used against us to great effect. Many corporations make a small number of people rich by privatizing profits and socializing cost. A small portion of the profits can be used to subvert democracy (where money equals speech). Academics, politicians and “scientists” can also be bought cheaply to sow doubt while the harvest continues and even increases.

We who work to preserve the environment cannot match their clout in dollars. The best financial return on taking

care of the world is not stealing from the people of the future. This is enormously profitable and cost effective but doesn't put money in our efforts today.


The most powerful votes we possess, however, are with our feet and our voices. Show up, speak up. Corporations cannot match us in this category, nor can they defeat us if these are the votes we cast at every opportunity.

“We vote most days with a vote counted much more precisely than our ballots.”

Climate change is the greatest crime against humanity ever committed. It is immoral. It is not on the ballot. If you want to vote on this issue, you must do it with your feet and your voice. Vote early and vote often.

Only when the streets are filled with people demanding that this crime against humanity stops will all our votes achieve what democracy promises.

A world where we leave to our children something better than we received. Handing them the steering wheel after driving off the cliff is immoral.

Save-the-Date	Tuesday, December 12th	5 - 8:30 PM
<p>The 17th Annual Celebration of UN International Human Rights Day</p> <p>Water: Right or Commodity?</p> <p>Rochester's Future Water & Around the Globe</p>		
	<p>Our featured panelists will speak to issues on the quality of water for our school children, the impact on poverty and living conditions and international programs teaching the building of sanitation systems in countries without the right to clean water.</p>	
	<p>Potluck Dinner 5:30 to 6:30</p>	<p>Panel & Community Discussion 6:30 to 8:30 PM*</p>
<p>Downtown United Presbyterian Church 121 N. Fitzhugh Street, Rochester NY</p>		<p>*For more information call (585) 271-4796</p>

The Executive Committee of the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club has voted to endorse

★ ★ ★ **LOUISE SLAUGHTER** ★ ★ ★

From the Executive Committee: The Candidate Endorsement Controversy

The Rochester Regional Group

There's an old story, maybe even a true one, about John Muir and Gifford Pinchot at the Grand Canyon. Muir, our guiding spirit of preservationism; and Pinchot, conservationism avatar of the "multiple-use" philosophy, were walking on a dusty trail when along came a tarantula. Pinchot prepared to stomp it, but Muir intervened, saying the wilderness denizen "had as much right to be there" as anyone. Muir and Pinchot were the odd couple of early environmentalism. They started as friends walking the same walk. Later they clashed, setting in motion trends often difficult to reconcile but destined to coexist.

The Sierra Club went on to make preservationist history — you might say places like Glacier National Park were the tip of an iceberg of accomplishments — but the organization has also had its share of internal dissension. Even outright civil war. A half century ago, for example, disagreement over nuclear power led famed environmentalist David Brower, Muir's spiritual heir, to leave the Club and found Friends of the Earth. Brower, a prescient, absolute opponent of nukes, later returned to the Club. Whether because of or in spite of the in-fighting, the Club grew stronger.

Which brings us to the latest dust-up. Early in the contest for electoral delegates, Bernie Sanders emerged as a charismatic voice for change, for bucking the big money influence, blocking the TPP deal, and coming to grips with the reality of climate change. His message was more closely aligned with the vision and ideals of the Sierra Club than any other candidate. It would have seemed strategic for the Sierra Club not to jump in with

an endorsement for Hillary Clinton at first, but to affirm Bernie's message, even when Hillary was surging ahead with delegates. The Sierra Club could have offered its endorsement of Hillary in return for including more of Bernie's ideas into the convention platform. So when the Sierra Club announced well before the final delegate count was assured that it was endorsing Hillary, the fireworks of dissent exploded with members who were outraged and felt betrayed.

Many of us were deeply dismayed by this action. Some members have said they are ready to jump ship for an organization that truly represents their ideas for a sustainable future. What we want our members to consider before jumping is: What other ships with the power, membership and history of environmental accomplishments will you climb aboard?

All organizations are subject to their leaders making decisions not favored by the majority of their members. What is admirable about the Sierra Club is that it truly is a grass-roots organization. When decisions are made by a leader that do not reflect the values and ideals of the organization, members have objected and forced those leaders to change or taken them out of office. This is what happened a few years ago when Carl Pope actually bargained for a big donation from Clorox in return for the company using the Sierra Club logo on a new, supposedly environmentally safe product.

With this perspective, we urge you stick with us. Join us as we challenge the decision-making of our leaders and begin to draft guidelines that ensure a more representative process for future elections.



What comes Naturally to you?

Contributing your talent to the Rochester Sierra Club is a meaningful way to make positive change possible in our community and even close to home in your own neighborhood.

We are looking to expand and diversify our perspective in the upcoming new year. All walks-of-life from all stages of life are invited to become one of our new Executive Committee members.

Positions available:

Conservation Chair

Treasurer

Secretary

Calendar Sales Rep

Social Media Specialist

Chair

Are you a natural at leading the way? Ready to turn your passion for environmental causes into real action? A great committee needs a great leader, and we're looking for someone to help guide the Executive Committee as we spearhead our many ongoing initiatives, find new issues to tackle, and engage the community. The only prerequisite is your desire to help us make a difference. Contact us for details at sierraclub.rrg@gmail.com.

Treasurer

Are you a natural with numbers? Do you pride yourself at tracking how much money's in the bank, how much you can spend, and how to provide financial guidance? We're looking for someone to manage our accounts, make payments, deposit donations, and run financial reports to ensure we're financially prepared to undertake our initiatives. Contact us for details at sierraclub.rrg@gmail.com.

Return Cobbs Hill Park: How one bad policy decision after another took away Cobbs Hill Parkland

By Hugh Mitchell

Once in a while a conservation issue comes up which inflames the smoldering fires under a number of issues. The current plan by Rochester Management, Inc. to build two 4-story apartment buildings in Cobbs Hill Park has touched 3 live wires: park preservation, park expansion needs and the gentrification removal of limited income elderly. All of this project was planned without any input from the public or surrounding neighborhoods until it was revealed in a meeting late last Spring.

During the crisis of World War II, 9.5 acres were temporarily taken from Cobbs Hill Park, next to the Culver Road Armory, to house German prisoners. By 1957, when the former POW camp should have been returned to park use, the City decided instead to address the housing needs of limited income, elderly City of Rochester residents by permitting construction of six 1-story units now named Cobbs Hill Village. We emphasize that the ownership transfer of parkland was on a conditional basis. Ownership was limited to the life of a 50 year mortgage. The deed to this park property was cautious and highly restrictive. For example, clause Sec.#4 clearly states "...the premises herein described... shall revert to the City of Rochester when the Company shall fully pay and discharge its mortgage...".

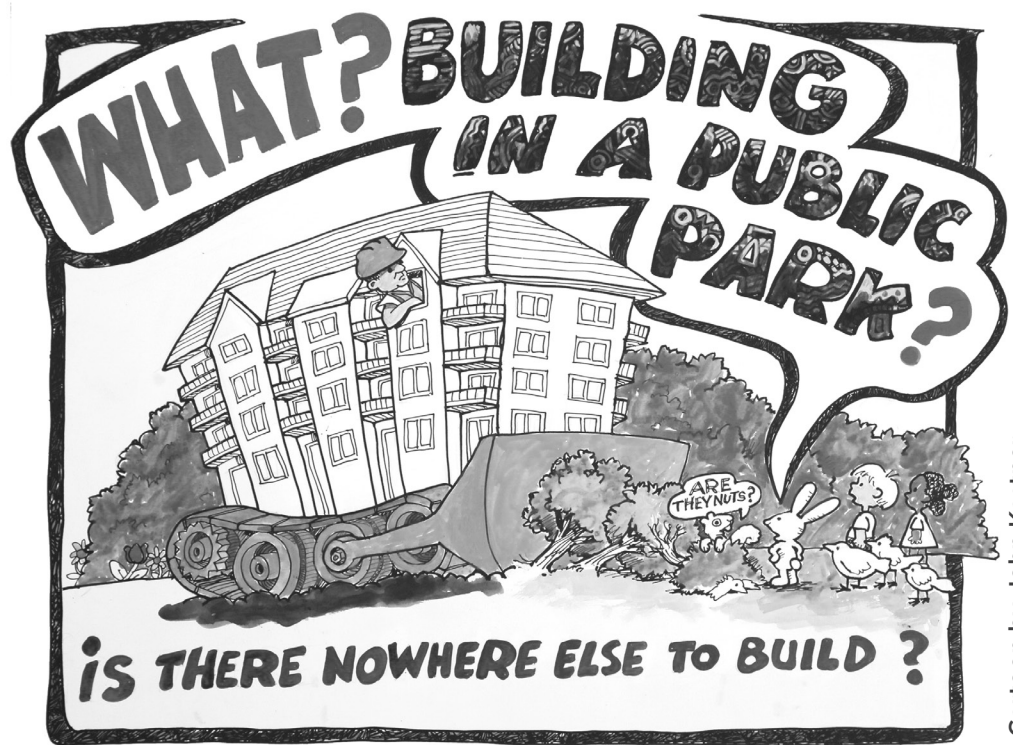
The Cobbs Hill Park property legally should have reverted to the City about 2008, but Rochester Management, Inc. (a not-for-profit corporation) which is the current owner-management firm, then approached the City for a new 40- year contract. The City Council, under Mayor Duffy, made a serious policy error at that time and the 9.5 acre section of Cobbs Hill Park was signed over again. However, there is no indication on the record that it was the intention of the firm to tear down the unobtrusive, old apartments and replace them

with two very large profit-making ventures which we see as being in violation of the deed.

Now the plot thickens and the fires begin to burn. With some investigation, it has emerged that Rochester Management had to include Cobbs Hill Village in a mortgage package with other properties in order to secure a 3.5 million dollar mortgage to do renovations. Here is what we believe is behind the apartment proposal. The six 1-story units, which are now 58 years old, are not producing enough income to pay this package of mortgages. To address this financial deficit Rochester Management, Inc. quietly

Association. If their plan comes to pass, the site preparation will radically change the natural park-like setting of the old apartments, destroy a number of grand old trees, and force the current residents to move elsewhere. The new apartments will be totally out of place as they loom over Cobbs Hill Park.

Current plans call for one and two-bedroom apartments, with the two-bedroom apartments to be rented at "market rate" (another violation of the deed). Elderly, limited income residents will have to move, as their current modest apartments will be torn down. Rochester Management, Inc. has offered them first place in



submitted a proposal to City Planning for two 4-story apartment buildings constructed next to Norris Drive to house at least 110 people.

No public outreach was done in putting together this plan. Instead, a finalized plan complete with architectural drawings was put forth late last spring at a meeting organized by the City and the Upper Monroe Neighborhood

their new, expensive apartments **as long as they are able to pay a 100% increase in rent.** This is called gentrification. Few of the current residents can afford to move to such pricy new apartments or they wouldn't have been admitted to Cobbs Hill Village in the first place.

The Sierra Club wishes to preserve and protect beautiful natural parklands and opposes this project.

4 HRS in Philadelphia

by John Kastner

What good does it do to spend 12 hours on a bus to walk in withering heat for 4 hours, chanting slogans to politicians with their heads so buried in stockpiles of money that they can't hear anything? You know you'll be lucky if this elaborate demonstration, the hard work of hundreds of dedicated organizers who enabled the sweat of thousands of marchers, get even a ten-second mention in the mainstream media.

We never know whether or not all this effort reaches or moves the intended audiences with the message that we, meaning all of us, 1% included, are in serious trouble. Yet there is something terribly brave and deeply touching about watching and participating in the struggle to move power to action, even at this late hour.

I rode the bus to Philadelphia with about 50 other people from Rochester and Syracuse to demonstrate in defense of Earth before the Democratic Convention. We rode to join thousands from as far away as Hawaii to demand that the Democrats return to their traditional role of protecting the environment. It is appalling to have to report that Bill McKibben, Bernie Sanders' environmental delegate to the democratic platform committee, could get no cooperation from Hillary's delegates on methane reduction, fracking, off-shore drilling or the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which even their own candidate nominally opposes. The only concession he could win for the environment was an agreement on more urban bicycle lanes. This response to the global

"We ranged in age from 16 to 90. We came with bad knees, bad backs, bad jokes and little sleep, but with inexhaustible passion."

threat of climate change amounts to fighting our burning forest fires with a squirt gun. This, no doubt, is why his organization, 350.org, arrived with signs that read, "This is an emergency. Act like it."

Large and varied contingencies demanded an end to fracking. They demanded a serious priority effort to develop and deploy renewable energy. They demanded an end to endless wars that waste time, resources and lives, an end to environmental and political racism, an end to trade agreements like the TPP that give corpora-

tions grounds to sue us for daring to protect the environment and even an end to an economic system that values profits for the rich over human rights and human lives.

The people on our bus represented opposition to nuclear power, dangerous gas pipelines and storage facilities

and the TPP. They represented support for 100% renewable energy, clean water and clean air. We ranged in age from 16 to 90. We came with bad knees, bad backs, bad jokes and little sleep, but with inexhaustible passion. We joined multitudes arriving with banners, musical instruments, puppets, props and younger, stronger bodies. I saw families, I saw gay, straight, black and white people, I saw Native Americans and a huge bus bearing the words "Black Men for Bernie." I even saw two blind men, one younger and one older, marching under the blazing sun to the pounding of drums.

The police were there in force along with squads of Bernie peace keepers. They all did their jobs with professional dignity and courtesy. One policeman even apologized for accidentally brushing my leg with his bicycle tire.

I met a retired couple who interrupted their sailboat journey around the world to fly to Philadelphia for the demonstration. It was a grand party of people from everywhere coming together to defend each other's lives from the greatest threat to ever confront our species. It was humanity at its very best, turning its suffering into celebration. It was immensely inspiring and thrilling to realize that we were doing this for each other, for all life, human and non-human...even for the 1%.

Whatever the outcome of efforts like these, they remind us of what we are fighting for. They remind us that we are not alone. These demonstrations have their own worth, giving us hope, showing the world that we have the ability to come together, embracing our diversity, to love one another as we work out our problems. This is the kind of news we need to see more of.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Wayne Howard

U.S. Chair of Sierra Club's Binational Great Lakes Committee



Wayne is a recipient of the 2016 **Raymond J. Sherwin International Award**, which honors extraordinary volunteer service toward international conservation. He accepted the award this September at the AGM of Sierra Club in Oakland, California.

Wayne has worked on the Sierra Club's Binational Great Lakes Committee (BGLC) since its formation in 2005. He also serves as Chair of the Rochester Regional Group Great Lakes Committee.



Thank you for keeping the
The Great Lakes Great!

The Binational Great Lakes Committee



The BGLC has been active and effective on both sides of the border, and is probably the most successful of the U.S.-Canada International Committee's accomplishments. This unique cross-border group engages in important and complex interventions around environmental protection of the Great Lakes, which contain 20 percent of the world's fresh water.

Through the years, there have been myriad issues that require coordination on both research and advocacy. These issues include everything from the establishment of the Great Lakes Compact in 2008, Great Lakes Restoration, the threat of invasive species — especially the Asian Carp, harmful algae blooms in Lake Erie, to the recent pipeline and micro-bead issues, and controversial Waukesha diversion.

Calendar Sales Rep

Are you a natural at sealing the deal? Do you enjoy fundraising? We're looking for someone to promote our biggest fundraiser of the year, selling our spectacular Sierra Club calendars! You'll work with recurring donors, ensure we have a supply of calendars for sale at events, and help us get the word out about them. Contact us for details at sierraclub.rrg@gmail.com.

Surprises and New Light on Sustaining Fisheries

By Peter Debes

Many of us enjoy a Friday fish fry. I do too, though I have cut back after observing the decline in fish at what used to be fantastic snorkeling spots when I was leading ecotours. What is not so well known is that according to the World Resources Institute in a 2012 report, about 1 billion people — largely in developing countries — rely on fish as their primary animal protein source. In that report, it is stated that global use of seafood is outgrowing the sustainable yield of oceanic fisheries. It was estimated that 70 percent of the world's fisheries are either fully exploited or depleted.

Much of the overfishing is being done in low and middle income countries. We should remind ourselves that these countries are striving to repeat the rich countries' success by following their example: i.e. that most rich countries readily traded some of their capital in the form of Earth's riches for human riches until mounting costs from ecological damage and depletion forced a turnaround and a move toward a sustainable use of resources.

Spurring governments to change their management of fishing has been difficult because it is so hard to

provide a realistic estimate of the cost.

An economic study that provides an example for measuring the economic cost of natural capital is found in a 2014 *Nature* article that provides a model for solving this problem. It establishes a value for mangroves and then calculates the costs for loss in mangrove habitat in Thailand where sufficient data is available. Mangroves are now known for multiple benefits: providing wood and shellfish products, plants, honey, nursery and breeding grounds for fisheries, storm protection and carbon capture from the air. The authors show how it can be estimated that the mangrove destruction over four decades (about 1/3 of their total mangrove forest) cost the country more than \$2.73 billion!

The authors of an article in 2016 *Nature* studied 2,500 coral reefs around the world to try to find out what factors work best for sustaining the fish there. They came up with some surprises by comparing "bright spots" where fisheries are doing better with "dark spots" where fisheries are failing.

You would think that bright spots would be remote

(cont'd on page 6)

Social Media Specialist

NEW

Are you social media savvy? Do you know how to grab people's attention and get them involved in a discussion? We're looking for someone to manage our Facebook page to ensure we're supplying a steady stream of information, notifying local like-minded people of important events and matters they can take action on, and getting a dialog going with our members to help us better understand how we can best serve our community. Contact us for details at sierraclub.rrg@gmail.com.

Secretary

Are you a natural at taking notes? We're looking for someone to keep a documented record of our discussions and action items during our Executive Committee meetings, follow up with members afterwards to ensure all are informed of our accomplishments and ongoing activities, and help hold us accountable for the items on our ever-growing to-do list. Contact us for details at sierraclub.rrg@gmail.com.

Surprises and New Light on Sustaining Fisheries (cont'd from page 5)

and low population areas but actually included places with high population and heavy use. At the same time, some dark spots were in remote or uninhabited areas considered pristine. The bright spots often had built in protections, such as local "tenure" respected by long-term traditions or taboos, and/or were of paramount importance as the primary food source, and often, special environmental conditions such as deep-water refuges immune to fishing. High levels of local management were also a primary factor. Having good estimates of the real value of natural capital and these new insights about coral reefs that are doing well, provide hope and guidance for our mission to be good custodians of our planet.

Nature: Vol.515, 5 Nov., 2014, p. 32. Economics: Account for depreciation of natural capital.

Nature: Vol.535, 21 July, 2016, p. 416. Bright spots among the world's coral reefs.

Have You "Liked" Us on Facebook?

The best way to stay informed of upcoming activities and events is to follow us on Facebook. We also use it as a way to share important environmental news and take-action opportunities.

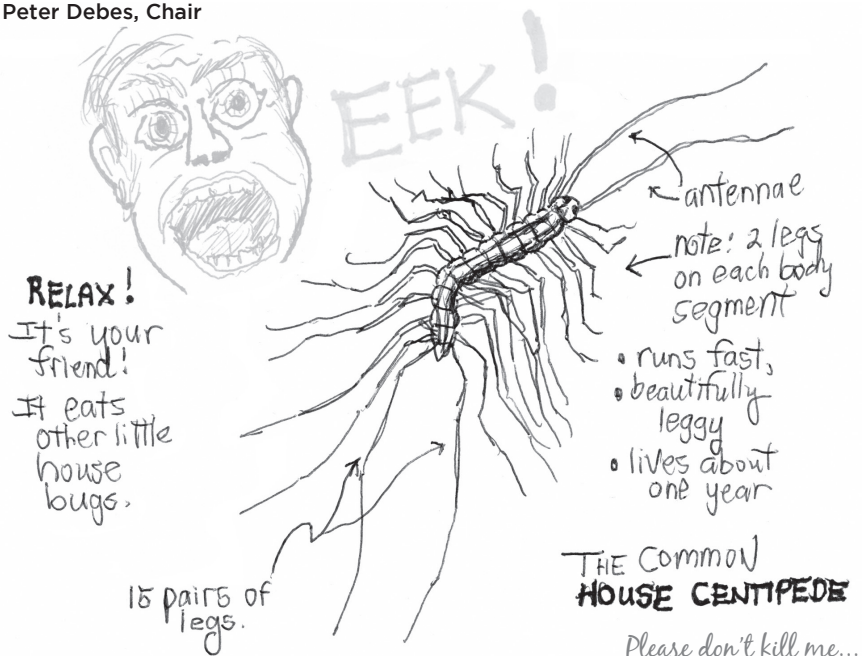
Start making connections with like-minded people, share a comment on our posts or message us with questions or requests. We love to hear from our members!

Follow us at www.facebook.com/SierraROC.



Naturalist's Corner

by Peter Debes, Chair



Return Cobbs Hill Park: How one bad policy decision after another took away Cobbs Hill Parkland (cont'd from page 3)

If these apartments must be torn down, the land should revert as stated in the deed to parkland. Already, this park is very heavily used and the space needed to accommodate increased future use for Rochester residents. Otherwise, the apartments should be renovated, preserving their present appearance and avoiding this type of gentrification, which invites those who can afford a nice setting to move in at the cost of moving poorer elderly out.

We are looking for area supporters to join us in opposing the proposed plan. Please contact us by calling (585) 271-4796.

The 2017

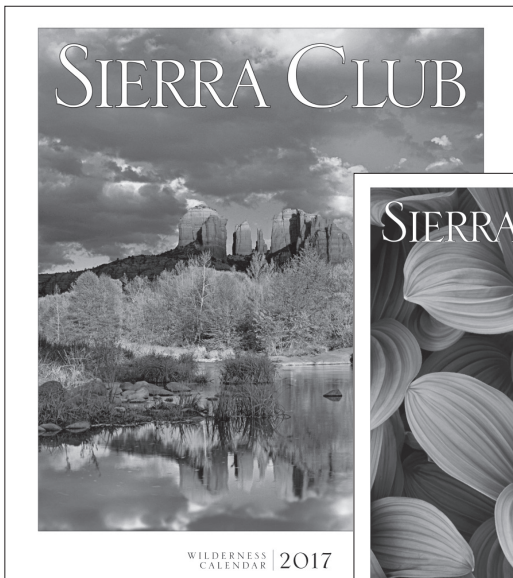


SIERRA CLUB Calendars

Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet

The Rochester Regional Group's

#1 Annual Fundraiser



"I think it's important to support Sierra Club's work every year. I'm passionate about the places the Club works to protect, both in my backyard in New York as well as around the world."

— Pritpal "Pepi" Singh Kochhar, Member for 15+ years and volunteer trip leader

Order Form

Item	Cost	Qty	Total
Engagement Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$16.00	_____	_____
Wilderness Calendar <input type="checkbox"/>	\$15.00	_____	_____
Shipping Costs:			Subtotal : _____
1 - 3 calendars: \$5.50			Shipping : _____
4 - 5 calendars: \$7.00			Tax included in cost
6 or more: Call (585) 271-0544 for pricing			GRAND TOTAL : _____
Also call this number for free pick up in Rochester			
Please make checks payable to "Sierra Club" and mail to: Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club P.O. Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610			

Limited supply of gift shipping envelopes available for \$1.25 each. Call (585) 271-0544 for details.

Ship To:

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"The Sierra Club gets things done because of its size. I trust its breadth and depth of expertise, and count on it to track a wide variety of issues — from promoting clean energy to protecting wetlands — at the local to the global level."

— Glenda Murphy, Wilderness Guardian

Please consider ordering 2017 calendars for yourself and holiday gift giving. With your help, we are truly making a difference. **Here's how...**

Our Major Accomplishments

Preservation of Public Land

Hemlock-Canidice Lake Watershed Forest
Henrietta Wetlands
Brighton Streams & Wetlands
Pinnacle Hill

Friends of Washington Grove

Restoration and protection of Rochester's unique old-growth forest in Cobbs Hill Park.

Annual Environmental Forums

A leader in our community in alerting the public of critical environmental issues.

"I've been very impressed by the renewable energy work that Sierra Club has done. As the mom of a one year old, I think my generation needs to step up to protect the environment so our children have a bright future."

— Nina Chen, Summit Circle Member

Zero Waste

A program to provide better recycling practices at local events and festivals.

Anti-Fracking Advocacy

Working to ban fracking in New York participating in protest demonstrations and collaborating with multiple local organizations.

Proceeds from calendars purchased at local retail and bookstores do not benefit the Rochester Regional Group, so please purchase directly from us!

Thank You for supporting the work of your local Sierra Club!



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of the Sierra Club**
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Fall 2016 Calendar

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

Date	Day	Time	Meeting/Event	Place
October 4	Tuesday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., 400 Andrews St., Ste 600
October 15	Saturday	9:00am-1:00pm	E-Waste Recycling Day	Rhinos Stadium (Smith St. Entrance) 460 Oak Street
November 1	Tuesday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., 400 Andrews St., Ste 600
December 6	Tuesday	6:30-8:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting	Harro East Bldg., 400 Andrews St., Ste 600
December 12	Monday	5:00-8:30pm	The Human Right to Water	Downtown Presbyterian Church 121 N. Fitzhugh Street



Follow us on Facebook to keep up-to-date on new events throughout the year.
www.facebook.com/SierraROC

Executive Committee meetings are open to Sierra Club members. All other meetings are open to everyone.

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