



eco-logue

CALENDARS ARE IN!
see page 3

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 30, No. 6
Nov./Dec. 2000

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

THE ELECTION - DID WE WIN?

An Analysis by John Stouffer, Sierra Club Lobbyist
Thursday, November 16th, 7:30pm
at Rochester Friends Meeting House*

John Stouffer has been our Atlantic Chapter political expert of many years. He has spent this rabid election season closely monitoring the whims and fevers of the voters as well as the frenzies of the candidates. He will give us his assessment of what it all means and what we can expect next. John would also like to hear from Sierra Club members about the issues which we feel are important for our legislators to consider in the next session.

*Please note the new meeting place for this program. The Rochester Friends Meeting House is at 84 Scio Street, at the Corner of Scio and Charlotte Streets. It's one block north of Milestones restaurant on East Ave. There's plenty of parking on the street plus free parking in the East End Garage near the Eastman Theater.

ANNUAL SIERRA CLUB PARTY

A Celebration of the Winter Solstice
6:00PM, Thursday, December 14th,
Chestnut Court building, St. John's Meadows*

You are invited to join us for a potluck supper, nature slide show and good fellowship at our annual celebration of the winter solstice. Please bring a dish to pass, your own place setting and don't forget your favorite environmental story and/or a few of your favorite nature slides. Beverages will be provided. After some wine, hors d'oeuvres, and dinner, we will share nature slides and stories including our Top Environmental Stories of 2000. Feel free to bring a friend.

*St. John's Meadows is on the south side of Elmwood Ave just west of Clinton Avenue. Look for a white fence. Bear right after entering and go to the Chestnut Court Building at 2200 Johnsarbor Drive West.

LEGISLATURE HEARS "NO EXIT"

by Frank Regan

The Sierra Club spoke out against the proposed New York State Thruway exit at Chili, New York before the Monroe County Legislature. We joined with other Rochester-area groups who oppose this sprawl project. Here is the message delivered by Frank Regan:

The National Sierra Club says sprawl hurts us all. Poorly planned development is threatening our environment, our health, and our quality of life. In communities across America "sprawl" - scattered development that increases traffic and saps local resources and destroys open space - is taking a serious toll. But runaway growth is not inevitable. Hundreds of urban, suburban and rural neighborhoods are choosing to manage sprawl with smart growth solutions.

The jury is in! Recent studies show that building or widening highways induces more traffic, called induced travel. Shortly after the lanes or road is opened traffic will increase by 10 to 50% of the new roadway capacity as public transit or carpool riders switch to driving, or motorists decide to take more or longer trips or switch routes. This is short-term induced travel. In the longer term (three years or more), as the new roadway capacity stimulates more sprawl and motorists move farther from work and shopping, the total induced travel rises to 50 to 100% of the

roadway's new capacity. This extra traffic clogs local streets at both ends of the highway travel.

The highways that are built to sustain these suburbs add to our pollution and energy problems, and increase our dependence on an automobile way of life which is unhealthy, anti-social, and unsustainable. The Sierra Club encourages public transit and pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly neighborhoods.

The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club opposes building a New York State Thruway exit at Chili.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

NOVEMBER 10-12, 2000

The Sierra Club's Northeast Regional Conservation Committee (NERCC) is focusing its fall conference on TOOLS FOR FIGHTING SPRAWL. Topics will include Laws and Regulations, Organizing Skills, Effective Use of the Media, Transportation Issues, and Population Issues

Come and find out what has worked in other parts of the country and region, help plan the Northeast Regional Sprawl Network, and HAVE FUN!

Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA, 748 Hamilton Road, Becket, MA 01223. For information and registration, Call Jennifer Zeh at (518) 587-9166



FROM THE CHAIR

by Hugh Mitchell

Elections, finances, by-laws, environmental battles. This fall has seen them all painted with colors as bold as the leaves.

Here's a brief run down on some election concerns: We have endorsed Al Gore and Hillary Clinton (see article *E-mail Cat Fight*). Our Atlantic Chapter does not take a position for or against the Transportation Bond Act but locally I personally plan to vote against it because \$1.8 billion of the funds will go exclusively to roads and because the exact projects to be funded are poorly defined.

Much closer to home our praise and congratulations are due to several of our group leaders. We need to thank Ray Nelson for his stewardship of the by-laws review process. Sarah Fasick deserves a lot of credit for facilitating the Zoo Sub-Committee decision making process. Dave Ruekberg and Paul Neumann deserve major accolades for rescuing our shaky finances and giving us a really good party at our first annual Fall Festival Fund Raiser at Tay House.

Please purchase our Sierra Club calendars because we still need more support.

ZOO EXPANSION

We heard "The New Zoo" story at our September 28 meeting. Larry Sorrel, Director of the zoo, gave a very nice presentation of the plans to expand the zoo in Seneca Park. Specifics of the plan have yet to be determined.

While the expansion plans are attractive, it comes at a cost. And it's not just a cost of money. Significant beautiful areas of the park would be sacrificed in both the upper and lower sections. It was ironic that as Larry explained plans for the lower park, two deer could be seen grazing in the very area which would become the parking lot.

Having heard and considered all this, the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club has decided to oppose the expansion of the zoo into Seneca Park. This park is one of three Olmsted Parks deeded in perpetuity to the people of Rochester. It is a major attraction for tourists and an important open space for residents in its current state. The extraordinary beauty and historical value of Seneca Park, due to its Olmsted design, would be largely destroyed by the expansion. Valuable parkland and park space, including native flora and fauna would be destroyed. For example, Trout pond would be degraded by the nearby parking lot and its runoff.

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E-MAIL CAT FIGHT

by Hugh Mitchell

Once every four years the Presidential candidates snarl from our TV sets like cats fighting under a full moon. And those big felines certainly generate a lot of passion and controversy in their debates. I find our Sierra Club endorsements also generate some controversy in our group as demonstrated by the following volleys of passionate e-mail.

09 Oct 2000: Message: "Remove my name from your lists. I am dropping my membership because you support specific political parties."

10 Oct 2000: SC Answer: "Perhaps you didn't understand when you recently joined Sierra Club that we are one of the few environmental organizations in the USA which place emphasis on influencing environmental legislation. We are a 501(c)4 organization, which means your membership is not tax deductible because we specifically engage in political activities for the environment. We do endorse candidates who we think will work for a healthy environment for our families and our future, but we do not contribute any of your dues money to political parties."

11 Oct 2000: Message Back: "The Sierra Club has endorsed both Hillary Clinton and Al Gore. Don't tell me this is not an endorsement of a political party. Where are your candidates from the other parties?"

12 Oct 2000: SC Answer: "We try very hard to take a balanced, well reasoned and fair approach which gives equal weight to all candidates before any political endorsements are made. Although it is true Democrats seem to pass our rigorous screening more frequently than Republicans, we have endorsed, for example, Sherwood Boehlert, a Republican Assemblyman and leader in the fight for clean air."

13 Oct 2000: Message Back: "Why didn't you endorse Bush and Lazio? This is my last e-mail. I will not renew my membership."

14 Oct 2000: SC Answer: "In my opinion the election of George W, a born son of Big Oil, will mean environmental treasures like the Arctic Wildlife Refuge will go down the oil pipe. He's as much as promised that approach. I presume Al Gore got our Sierra Club endorsement because he knows what the word "environment" means, as proven by his book "Earth In the Balance". I can speak with more authority about our Atlantic Chapter endorsements because I personally served on the team which interviewed both Rick Lazio and Hillary Clinton. Representative Lazio has a moderately good record in Congress scoring 62% positive on environmental votes and he is an attractive person. But when he competes with Hillary Clinton, answering exactly the same environmental questions, it is clear that Hillary has a brilliant mind and a very quick grasp of environmental issues. Health is at the top of her agenda; both human health and the health of the planet. With little reservation we voted unanimously to endorse Hillary Clinton to be our next Senator. She will be a leader, not just a political party follower."



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

It's time for us to elect Rochester Regional Group officers for the coming year. The structure of our officers is in the process of changing as a result of the national Sierra Club's effort to bring more uniformity into the by-laws of all groups and chapters. We fully expect new by-laws to be implemented by early next year at the latest. The ballot for officers is therefore written to correspond to the newly proposed by-laws.

POPULATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Population and Sustainability Committee is pleased to announce its monthly meetings will be held at the First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. S., Rochester, 1:00 to 3:00 PM, on the first Sunday of each month, November to May. These meetings are co-sponsored by the Choices and the Environment Task Force and the Church's Hunger, Homelessness and Housing Task Force. Programs are open to the public.

The November 5th, Sunday meeting will begin with a presentation on the topic *Lead Poisoning and Prevention*.

GREENSCAPE SHOW

Photographs of important environmental sites in the Rochester area will be on display at the First Unitarian Church beginning November 12. An exhibit-opening reception will be held at the church from 12M to 2PM on Sunday, November 12, 2000. Some of the photographs are of environmentally sensitive areas in the region taken by the Monroe County Environmental Management Council. Also included are photographs from a collection put together by the Landmark Society.

BALLOT

Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group
November, 2000

The proposed slate of officers for 2001 is listed below. Use blanks for write-in candidates.

Member of Executive Committee, 2-year term:

Vote for six

- Eric Smith
- David Ruekberg
- Hugh Mitchell
- Sarah Boyce
- Frank Regan
- Polly Nelson
- _____

Member of Executive Committee, 1-year term:

Vote for six

- Chris Hayes
- Ray Nelson
- Paul Neumann
- Gilly Burlingham
- Ginny Tyler
- _____
- _____

PLEASE VOTE!

Cut out ballot, and mail by Dec. 31 to:
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 39516
Rochester, NY 14604-9516

clip and mail

clip and mail

ORDER FORM

SIERRA CLUB YEAR 2001 CALENDARS

| | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Make check or money order payable to : Sierra Club - Rochester Mail check and order form to: Sierra Club, c/o Paul Neumann 82 Scholfield Rd. Rochester, NY 14617. Questions? Call Paul at 266-5376 | | | | |
| | CALENDAR | Price* | Quantity | Amount |
| | Wilderness | \$ 12.91 | | |
| | Engagement | \$ 13.99 | | |
| *Price includes 8% tax | | | Subtotal: | |
| Sold to: _____ _____ _____ | Ship to: _____ _____ _____ | | Shipping: | \$ 4.00 |
| | | | Total: | |

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CALENDAR

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---|--|
| Nov. 2 | Thursday | 7:00 PM | ----- Kandid Coalition ¹ | |
| Nov. 5 | Sunday | 1:00 PM | Population & Sustainability Committee | First Unitarian Church ⁵ |
| Nov. 9 | Thursday | 5:30 PM | ----- Ex-Com meeting ² ----- | St. John's Meadows ³ |
| Nov. 15 | Wednesday | 7:30 PM | Wetlands Committee | 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton |
| Nov. 16 | Thursday | 7:30 PM | ----- General Meeting (see page 1) ----- | Friends Meeting House⁶ |
| Nov. 24 | Friday | 6:00 PM | Alternatives Fair | First Unitarian Church |
| Nov. 25 | Saturday | 10:00 AM | Alternatives Fair | First Unitarian Church |
| Dec. 3 | Sunday | 1:00 PM | ----- Population & Sustainability Committee ----- | First Unitarian Church ⁵ |
| Dec. 7 | Thursday | 7:00 PM | Kandid Coalition ¹ | |
| Dec. 14 | Thursday | 6:00 PM | ----- Annual Winter Solstice Party (see page 1) ----- | St. John's Meadows³ |
| Dec. 20 | Wednesday | 7:15 PM | Wetlands Committee | 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton |
| Dec. 31 | Sunday | | Voting deadline for Rochester Group and Atlantic Chapter officers | |

¹Call Gilly Burlingham, 237-6378, for more information and/or meeting place

²Ex-Com meetings are open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.

³Call Ginny Tyler, 244-4084 for directions

⁴Call Ray Nelson, 342-2734 for time & location

⁵Note new location: First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd.

⁶Friends Meeting House, 84 Scio St. (north of East Ave. at East End Parking Garage)

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.