



# eco-logue

Explore, enjoy  
and protect  
the planet

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 32, No. 5  
Nov/Dec/Jan 2002-3

## The Path to Energy Independence

7:15 PM Thursday, November 21, Third Presbyterian Church, Meigs & East Ave.

The Sierra Club places the highest priority on energy efficiency. Efficiency is the cheapest and most effective way to decrease the adverse environmental and national security effects of energy use. Increasing our energy efficiency can help us reduce air and global warming pollution from existing fossil power plants, avoid the need for additional polluting power plants, and save consumers money on their energy bills.

Efficiency is the only resource available in large enough quantity at a sufficiently low price that it can undercut old, dirty coal plants and allow a net reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> during this decade, and it is the only carbon reduction strategy for the transportation sector that is feasible with existing technology. A strong program will eliminate only

a few percent of net consumption per year at best, so it is neither radical nor impractical.

Efficiency has a proven track record. The U.S. economy was 42% more efficient in 2000 than in 1970 as measured by energy per dollar of economic activity. Energy efficiency has added more total energy capability to the U.S. than all fossil, nuclear and renewable energy resources combined over the same period. Ongoing efficiency gains cut energy consumption from what would otherwise be 4% per year to an actual 1.5 to 2% annually.

With current worldwide events shining the spotlight directly on America's energy consumption, it is absolutely necessary that we think aggressively about conservation. Energy independence IS achievable.

Through conservation, we will be able to reduce the number of power plants, reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and divert our political attention away from Middle East oil and towards domestic issues.

If you would like to learn more about energy conservation initiatives, plan on attending this meeting. Local energy conservation expert Bill LaBine will speak about what can be done around the home. Bill has converted his old colonial home in Avon into a super efficient solar powered house. He will have literature on products available for any size energy project. Will Poppe, our local NYSEDA representative, will speak about NY State grants and energy conservation initiatives. Speakers will explain local and statewide activities that are making a real impact!

## Celebrate The Solstice With Sierra Club

*A glass of cheer, a shared supper, music, and a nature program*

**Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm**

**Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows\***

Did you miss it last year - the fun of fellowship with other hikers, outdoors people, and environmental activists at our Annual Celebration of the Solstice? Thanks to Ginny Tyler we have again been invited to her residence to enjoy this third solstice gathering. Beginning at 5:30 pm, Sierra Club members and guests will gather at the Chestnut Court building in St. John's Meadows for wine & cheese, a shared supper at

6:30 pm followed by a nature program. Please bring a dish to share (your own place setting is recommended) and we will bring the extras.

\* St. John's Meadows is located on the south side of Elmwood Ave. just west of Clinton in Brighton. Look for the white fence, bear right after entering and proceed to Chestnut Court on Johnsarbor Drive West.



Numbers count. If you have not done so, make your Sierra Club membership more active by signing up to our e-mail notification list. Surf over to [http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/e-mail\\_list.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/e-mail_list.htm) and join the 166 members who are now a part of our growing network of news, events, and action contacts.

## From the Chair



by Hugh Mitchell

As you might imagine many Sierra Club members have been amazed and disconcerted by the magnitude of the County administration's budget cut proposals which fall on local environmental programs. We have been taking steps to temper these short sighted plans and we have developed an extensive fact file on the County's financial difficulties. The facts point to the conclusion that there are a number of myths and biased presumptions behind the Administration's selective decision to target as much as 30% of the 2003 cuts on environment related areas.

*One of the myths* behind the initial Jack Doyle budget slashing is that you can close parks during the week, lay off 26% of the park employees, and still offer the public clean, intact parks on weekends. Even though Mr. Doyle has backed off on actual park closures, the Administration has already done damage to the parks by laying off or retiring 43 employees. The

presumption is parks are surplus fat, a negative drag on the budget, which should receive leftover funds. This will *deteriorate the quality of life* in Monroe County and *discourage new business investment*. It runs counter to all studies showing parks are the most popular government program.

*A second myth* is that money can be saved by eliminating programs which bring in money. The fact is programs such as the Soil & Water Bureau & the Cornell Cooperative Extension are *dollar multiplier programs* for the County. For example the Co-op Extension brings \$4 in to the county from state and private sources for every \$1 of County support, while the Soil & Water Bureau secures grants which multiply up to \$5 for every \$1. The County will lose both monies, vital environmental knowledge, and prestige by closing the Cooperative Extension.

When legislators face the hard choices on where and how to retrench they must also consider the *social multiplier effects* of closing vital health and environmental programs under the Bureau of Environmental Quality and the future effect of limiting nature education for our children by cutting an additional \$400,000 from the

RMSC which will necessitate *closing Cumming Nature Center*. What message is the Administration sending when they say they do not have the money to monitor the health of our lands and waters and adequately support important networking programs like the Water Education Collaborative and the Environmental Management Council? The largest myth is that these cuts are all caused by 'mandated programs'. The fact is Jack Doyle has dropped property taxes over the years below the point of minimum County support.

I think Monroe County has done a good job advertising our beautiful region as an attractive place for business and industry to relocate and they rightly point to the high quality of life we are fortunate to enjoy with our outstanding arts, cultural, education and environmental programs that have helped us to surpass many larger cities. *Will this continue?* We must find ways to redirect the coming fiscal austerity programs so *reductions are equally and fair applied* to all parts of the budget. We can not make reductions which will threaten our basic health, recreation and environmental standards.

### "Sierra Club South" at Lakeville

7:30pm, Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>  
(see directions below)

Hemlock forest logging? Weeds choking Conesus Lake? Sprawl around Canandaigua? Drinking water issues? Wetlands? The effort to 'Rediscover the Genesee River'? All these and other environmental issues are cropping up along the Route 5 & 20 corridor stretching from Canandaigua to Geneseo, including Hemlock and Conesus Lakes issues. We are making an effort to organize people concerned about the environment in the southern part of our region. People who have

not had a chance to address local environmental concerns. We have set up a meeting in that area, courtesy of a new member who will lend us her barn. If you live in the southern area, particularly any where near the 5 & 20 corridor of our Rochester Region, come and meet your fellow Sierra Club members and friends, share donuts and coffee, and talk about the issues. If there is enough interest, members may want to organize a 'Sierra Club South' group.

Directions to Becky Ryan's barn, 570 Big Tree Rd (Rt.20A), Lakeville. From Rochester: Rt 390 South to Exit 9 - (Livonia exit) and go south on Rt. 15 toward Lakeville. At Rt.256 (1 mi.

-at Fratelli's restaurant) go right on Rt. 256 at the fork in road. Proceed to the main intersection stop light at Rt.20A. Go left (east) on Rt. 20A for just 2/10th mile and look for the Lakeville United Church on left. Just past the church Becky Ryan's is a white house with a sign that says "Ryan #5707" on left. If you are proceeding from Canandaigua, go on Rt. 5 & 20 west to Rt. 390 south. Follow above directions.

Eco-logue is published five times a year by the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club, PO 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.

## Coastal Clean-up Report

by Laura Arney

I want to thank the members Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club for turning out to clean the Seth Green Island location on the Genesee River (across the river from Maplewood rose garden) for the 16th annual coastal clean-up sponsored by the Water Education Collaborative. Our volunteer effort was lauded by local fishermen. We were 10-strong and eager to help. What were some unusual items found in this section? One mangled children's bike, and a full size blanket. We also saw some lonely well-worn shoes with the socks stuffed inside at the fence overlook, waiting patiently for their owner. Ever hopeful, we left them to be claimed by the owner. The most prevalent item was tangled monofilament fishing line left behind by fisher folks. Also in abundance was the ½ pint size Styrofoam cup with lid, used by vendors to sell fishing bait. We need a bio-degradable alternative. If you fish or otherwise enjoy our waterways, please pick up after yourself and "carry in-carry out". Thanks for caring for our natural resources.

## Kodak Title V Air Pollution

by Laura Arney

The local Clean Air/Clean Water Committee participated in the review of Kodak's - Clean Air Act - Title V permit which is under renewal by the DEC (surragote for the EPA). Two committee members learned about the process by networking with NYPIRG and Citizen's Environmental Coalition (CEC). Title V calls for the consolidation and streamlining of federal and state regulation of air pollution emissions into a single document. The general citizen participation is important because the outcome of the final permit will affect public and environmental health. In early 2002, with the expertise of NYPIRG primer *The Proof is in the Permit* and an advance copy of Kodak's "Working Draft" Permit, our group began to understand the nuts and bolts of participating in the process of reviewing the technical language of the regulations. Members of NYPIRG, CEC and Kandid Coalition sifted through and "foiled" documents pertaining to Kodak facilities. In order to build on a history of concern for air pollution of Kodak's two waste incinerators, our group

agreed to focus our review of permit conditions that dealt with Building 218 Hazardous Waste Incinerator and Building 95, Kings Landing which burns sludge and blowdown material from Bldg 218. In June, two members of The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club volunteered to proof read and comment on the permit conditions for these incinerators. On November 12, they presented 16 written pages detailing proposed monitoring improvements, report language changes, and suggestions on federal regulations. They also participated in the oral comment presentations. Although we did not expect a big turnout from the Rochester general public, we had a respectable showing of regulators, Kodak management, and advocates from the local Sierra Club, CEC, and Kandid Coalition. The media attended and reported in both print and radio spots. In the process, we received calls from concerned neighbors of Kodak with whom we can network and educate on the air pollution problems. For more details call Laura E. Arney 334-8548.

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## Sierra Club Endorses Slaughter and Koon

Michael Dahl, PAC Chairman

The national Sierra Club has endorsed Louise Slaughter in her run for reelection to the 28th District of the US House of Representatives. Because of her long record of support for both local and national environmental causes she has had strong local support in the past, but we have not been able to move the local nomination up the Sierra Club chain of approvals until this election. A national endorsement like this requires three levels of endorsement, starting with our local group, moving up to the Atlantic Chapter endorsement for New York State and finally securing approval of the national Sierra Club. Louise Slaughter has consistently rated very high in her voting record supporting

positions taken by the Sierra Club. We urge our members to contribute money and to volunteer to work for her campaign. Her local campaign office is Committee to Reelect Louise Slaughter, 121 East Avenue, Rochester, NY 14604 and the telephone number is 232-2410.

The NY State Sierra Club has endorsed David Koon in his run for reelection to the 135th District of the New York State Assembly. He has been pro-environmental and has supported Sierra Club positions He is the Co-Chairman of the Legislative Commission on Hazardous Waste and Toxic Substances and has been influential on this important committee. He has authorized legislation requiring

the Department of Health to conduct ongoing surveillance of environmental exposures and diseases affecting New Yorkers. He introduced bills that prohibit the use of pesticides in freshwater and tidal wetlands. He has sponsored legislation creating incentives for recycling electronic equipment including establishing standards and guidelines for recycling of this equipment. We urge Sierra Club members to contribute both money and time to his campaign. His local campaign office is Friends of David Koon, 144 Fairport Landing, Suite 220, Fairport, NY 14450 and the telephone number is 234-6972.

## Riches of Palate and Place

by Dave Ruckberg

This year's Fall Festival was a success on the dining front alone – judging from the crowds pleading for more pasta all'olio. But Tay House nearly burst as diners enjoying our "open air" seating packed themselves in for John Mitchell's talk on "Nature and a Sense of Place." No doubt those attending have a new appreciation for hard water after Mitchell noted the great cultural movements that sprang from limestone.

And while the 70 or so attendees were happily feasting on the pasta, fresh salad, the exotic Wegmans cake, and Mitchell's broad knowledge, your local Sierra Club was being fed too. We raised much-needed funds, and our spirit was fed by the members. Both the funds and the energy will be greatly needed in the struggles we have ahead, as our local and Federal governments



seem to have the environment on the back, back burner.

Speaking of energy, let's recognize the volunteers whose energy made it happen! First, thanks to John Mitchell, who spoke gratis. And a great thanks to Genevieve Russo, our chef *supremo*. Tim McGowan, Jim Rhody, Ginny Tyler, and Paul Neumann were tireless in helping set up and clean up. And members of the Ex-Com helped all along the way.

Ask any of them – by volunteering you get back more than you give. You feel the satisfaction of doing a job well, and your effect is



felt far beyond yourself. Maybe you can cook, design posters, make phone calls, or know a place we could have

our next Festival! Contact us and let us know you're willing to help. A little or a lot – it all makes a difference.

Thanks to Wegmans for its generous contribution in support of the Rochester Sierra Club's Third Fall Festival.

## Sierra Club Paper Generates National Interest

Our in-depth study, entitled *Sprawl Follows The Pipes*, on the relationship between sprawl and the Monroe County Water Authority's aggressive and monopolistic expansion of their water pipe system, has caught the attention of the National Wildlife Federation and the Environmental Advocates of Albany. Following up on our assertions, representatives of these organizations recently

spent three days in the Rochester region talking to water experts, the DEC, and MCWA. They are considering using our research for documentation illustrating the need to control expanded water use in the Great Lakes basins. The paper has opened the doors of experts and water use advocates and has contributed to an understanding of the complex interconnections between

politics, business, and water use in this region.

We gave distributed over 250 copies of our paper to date and reprinted it three times. Copies of the *Sprawl Follows The Pipes* study may be obtained for \$6 (plus mailing) by writing Sierra Club, PO Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604 or by calling Sierra Club at (585) 244-2625.

### BALLOT

Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group  
November, 2002

The proposed slate of officers for 2003-2004 is listed below. Officers elected last year and serving through 2003 are: Laura Arney, Ed Button, Michael Dahl, and Ray Nelson. We have two vacancies to fill for the 2002-2003 group. Use blanks for write-in candidates.

#### Member of Executive Committee

2-year term (2003-2004):

Vote for six

- Hugh Mitchell
- Frank Regan
- Dave Ruckberg
- Deb Muratore
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

#### Member of Executive Committee

1-year term (2003):

Vote for two

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE VOTE!

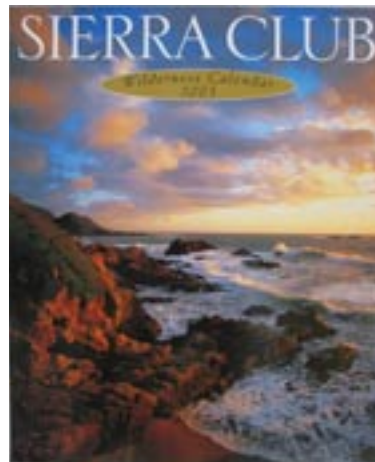
Cut out ballot, and mail by Dec. 31

to:

Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 39516  
Rochester, NY 14604-9516

# Sierra Club 2003 Calendars

**Sierra Club 2003 Engagement Calendar**  
Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and 'wire-o' binding.



**Sierra Club 2003 Wilderness Wall Calendar**-Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

## Sierra Club Holiday Cards - New this year -

image not available

**Yosemite**  
Photographs by  
William Neill  
20 cards, 20 envelopes  
5 each of 4 designs  
\$15 plus tax

**Landscapes**  
Photographs by  
Monte Nagler  
20 cards, 20 envelopes  
5 each of 4 designs  
\$15 plus tax

image not available

ORDER FORM

### SIERRA CLUB 2003 CALENDARS AND HOLIDAY CARDS

Make Check or money order payable to:

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Mail check and order form to:

**Sierra Club, c/o Ray Nelson  
42 Tyringham Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14617**

Questions? Call Ray Nelson at 342-2734

**Note:** Buying Calendars from us helps the local Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club

CALENDAR/CARDS	Price	Quantity	Amount
Wilderness Calendar	\$12.91*		
Engagement Calendar	\$13.99*		
Yosemite Cards	\$16.20*		
Landscapes Cards	\$16.20*		

\*Price includes 8% sales tax

Subtotal:

Shipping:

\$4.00

Total:

Sold to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Ship to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# CALENDAR

Nov. 8	Friday	7:30 PM	----- "Sierra Club South" (see page 2)-----	Ryan's Barn, Lakeville <sup>2</sup>
Nov. 9	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Conklin Gully	meet at First Unitarian Church <sup>1</sup>
Nov. 14	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>2</sup> -----	St. John's Meadows
Nov. 20	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Nov. 21	Thursday	7:15 PM	----- General Meeting: Energy (see page 1)-----	Third Presbyterian Church <sup>3</sup>
Nov. 27	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield <sup>5</sup>
Dec. 5	Thursday	5:30 PM	----- General Meeting, Solstice Party (see page 1)-----	Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Dec. 6,7	Fri.-Sat	6 PM, 10 AM	Alternatives Fair	First Unitarian Church <sup>1</sup>
Dec. 12	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>2</sup> -----	St. John's Meadows
Dec. 18	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Jan. 9	Thursday	6:00 PM	----- Annual Executive Committee Meeting <sup>2</sup> -----	St. John's Meadows
Jan. 12	Sunday		Eco-logue deadline	
Jan. 15	Wednesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Jan. 22	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield <sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South

<sup>2</sup>Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.

<sup>5</sup>Call Michael at 586-4618 for directions

<sup>3</sup>East Ave. at Meigs, Rochester

**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](mailto:frankrrr@rochester.rr.com)**

**Call 244-2625 for info about Sierra Club events and voice mail.**