



MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

THE 'NEW ZOO' STORY

Thursday, September 28, 6:45 PM
at Seneca Park Zoo

You are probably aware of the controversy swirling around Jack Doyle's decision to triple the size of the zoo in Seneca Park from 12 to 36 acres. The plan includes a new parking lot for 750 cars in the beautiful section of the park next to the Trout Pond. This \$85 million zoo expansion proposal has been criticized for its impact on the natural beauty of this Olmstead-designed park. In addition, the county has been sharply criticized for not providing adequate time and opportunity for public comment on the plan.

In order to allay these criticisms the Zoo Society has encouraged Larry Sorrel, Director of the Seneca Park Zoo, to speak publicly. On Thursday, September 28, Larry will give a tour of the projected expansion areas and a power point address on the elements driving the need for a larger zoo. After the walking tour he will help clarify the facts and myths regarding this important plan and he will field questions from the audience.

Meet at 6:45 PM at the front gate of the Seneca Park Zoo. The walking tour begins at 7:00 PM. The talk will be at 7:30 PM at the Rocky Coast Exhibit. The public is invited.

ROCHESTER'S DRINKING WATER Environmental Information on Water Issues

Monday, October 30th, 7:15 PM
Third Presbyterian Church
(Meigs & East Ave.).

Lectures, videos, panel discussion, questions & answers by Rochester's Water Executives John Stanwix, Director, Monroe County Water Authority and Don Navor, Director, City Water Bureau.

This summer the Sierra Club has been engaged in an intensive study of Rochester's drinking water. This project, called *The Water Explorers*, is funded in part by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club. Our summer intern and members have focused on studying both the City's Hemlock system and the Monroe County Water Authority. Both agencies have been helpful in sharing information and answering questions about our potable water related to the safety, profits, and growth of the water systems. We have also had educational

(continued on page 2)

FALL FESTIVAL 2000 FUNDRAISER

Want to have fun?
Want to help your local Sierra Club Group?
Then come to the Fall Festival
5-9 PM, Saturday, October 14
Tay House*, Cobb's Hill Park, Rochester

Schedule of events:

- 5:00 Guided hike through the park, children's games, preview auction items.
- 6:00 Dinner, Catered by Savory Thyme: Spanokopita entrée, side dishes, dessert, beverages, cash bar.
- 7:30 Silent Auction results
- 7:45 Music by Golden Link Folk Music Society

There probably won't be a better time to enjoy the spectacular fall colors in the park. Come inside and treat yourself to a warm spot beside the fire while you sip on some mulled cider and chat with friends, then wander over to survey the Silent Auction items. You will bid on items such as sporting equipment, electronics, chiropractic and other health services, tennis lessons, computer training, and all kinds of good things.

After a healthy dinner created by Savory Thyme, one of the best whole-food restaurants in Rochester, find out the results of the auction, and then enjoy the sweet sounds of live acoustic music by members of the Golden Link Folk Music Society.

Tickets for this event are \$20, and can be purchased in advance by contacting Paul Neumann (266-5376; paul_neumann@globalcrossing.com), David Ruekberg (538-6463; davidr@netacc.net), or any club officer. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets soon!

Help out your club and have a great time doing it!

* Directions to Tay House: From intersection of 490 and Winton, drive south on Winton (up hill). At the first light, turn right (west) on Hillside Ave. Continue west to School #1 on your left. Turn in school driveway, and proceed up hill to parking for Tay House.

(For more about the auction, see page 2)



FROM THE CHAIR

by Gilly Burlingham

THE ZOO STORY. The feeling I've gotten is that the Monroe County Exec has struck even more of a nerve than usual with his proposal for the Seneca Park Zoo expansion. Was there as much fuss and comment when he replaced professional after professional with political appointees on various boards and authorities?

I THOUGHT of all that area surrounding Kodak's River Road Educational facility, south of R.I.T. Since E.K. is drastically downsizing, why couldn't this splendid space be donated for a suburban zoo? It could fit in all the elephants and giraffes and hippopotami and other big critters, with parking-lots impinging on nothing more than unstoried lawn. Better yet, busses could ferry people into the new zoo and on to the too little-known New York Museum of Transportation. Moving the zoo is not likely to be much more expensive than the present suggested expansion.

WHEN I DID OUTREACH at the Seneca Park Zoo Environmental Fair last month, I needed some way to be part of the game most of the kids played. They were given a sheet with squares for each of the exhibitors which we marked to show they had been by. I decided to ask three questions. "Turn over one of these unmarked cards and answer the question on the other side. One question is not too easy, one is hard, and one any child can answer." #1: What is the Sierra Club? A: The oldest and best national environmental group in North America. #2: What is a sierra? A: As I explained to most adults, I had looked it up the night before and found that it's from Latin for saw, *serra*, and means a saw-toothed mountain. #3: What is your name? Would you believe I met three little girls called Sierra? I had no idea this has become a popular choice recently. If you know why, tell me. According to one mother, "Because it sounds pretty."

SO COME to our first program this fall to see and hear all about the zoo expansion plans (see page 1). We ought indeed to hear and discuss the options, including the invasion of public parks for whatever reason. I hope you add your voice and opinion, not only in our Club forum but in the wider metropolitan arena.

ON ANOTHER IMPORTANT FRONT, I hope anyone living near a possible new exit off the Thruway in Chili will get involved. There is already a group called "No Exit" headed by Town of Wheatland Planning Board member Michele Zuck. According to one of those respected professionals displaced by the County Exec, it's a true boon-doggle with no real economic benefit except as a thank-you to a political contributor who would like to create a truck plaza on prime and untouched farmland. It sounds to me like urban sprawl at its worst. And since another projected exit near Phelps-Clifton Springs was just stopped - and that one had more reason behind it -, with determined and outspoken opposition I think this one can be stopped too. Drive down Union Street from 490 and see what I mean.

ROCHESTER'S WATER (continued from page 1)

tours of the reservoirs and the Shoremont Water Treatment Plant.

There are a lot of environmental implications to the ways we collect and distribute potable water such as the effect of expanding the distribution system on suburban sprawl. In order to educate both members and the public about our Rochester Drinking Water, the executive directors of both our major water agencies have agreed to talk to members, show videos, and answer questions about drinking water. The good news is that, in contrast to much of the USA, our drinking water supplies are abundant and the water quality excellent. There is still room for education and questions.

This membership program is scheduled for 7:15 PM Monday, October 30th at the Third Presbyterian Church and is open to the public. It promises to be a stimulating and thought provoking evening.

WANTED: YOUR VALUABLES!

Donations are wanted for the Silent Auction at the Fall Festival (see page 1). We're looking for items of value for this important fundraising event. It's a great way to advertise your business, or just to help out your Club! The following are just a few of the kinds of goods/services that make good auction items (we prefer new items - except for antiques):

- Artwork and photography
- Antiques
- Camping & sports equipment
- Home furnishings & decorations
- Electronics
- Tickets (theater, sports, travel, etc. - transferable!)
- Gift Certificates (merchandise, dining, health, tutoring, landscaping, etc.)

Please contact Paul Neumann (266-5376) or David Ruekberg (538-6463) for more information, and to arrange for your donations to be picked up.

NO GOLD NOW

Not all Gold is metal. There's liquid Gold at the headwaters of the Genesee River, but we are sorry to say that the Fall expedition to Gold, PA will have to be put off until Spring. At that time, with adequate planning, we hope to offer not only a tour of the headwaters but also a (comfortable) weekend environmental adventure with explorations, beautiful hikes, tours of Potter County, and staying at the Susquahannock Lodge. Watch for it in your Spring

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WEB NEWS by Frank Regan

Rochester-area Environmentalists. I have created two sites for environmental information-sharing at RochesterEnvironment.com. If you are a member of a Rochester-area environmental group and wish to locate another group, please steer your browser to: <http://www.ggw.org/rochesterenvironment/environmentalists.htm>.

There is also a restricted online group that enables interaction among groups and insures privacy. It provides for support on specific issues (e.g. Seneca Park Zoo expansion), contacts, requests for help, information sharing (let's not re-research the same issues), creating and taking polls, sharing files (e.g. photographs), conducting chats among many groups, and promoting events on an online calendar. Go to Rochester Groups (<http://www.egroups.com/group/RochesterOrganizations>). This is a restricted online group. Only when I can verify that you are member of a Rochester-area environmental group will you be given access to this site.

Environmental Impact of Fast Ferry. I wish to thank *City Newspaper* for publishing Lake Effects (August 2-8, 2000, page 7) where Lee Strong interviews me about the possible environmental impacts of the proposed fast ferry project for Rochester. I was not representing the Sierra Club on the ferry issue. One result of Mr. Strong's article seems to be that William Price, the Port Project Manager for the city, has promised Rochester that "the process will done in the open." For a full version of the original article I sent to City, which was concerned with the environmental impacts of the ferries, and many online resources for this important issue, go to this site:

http://www.ggw.org/rochesterenvironment/fast_ferry.htm

No Exit. As you are probably already aware, the proposed NYS Thruway exit at Chili is heating up. I am helping the No Exit group get online to provide information and solicit help in opposing this project. Please steer you browser to <http://www.ggw.org/noexit> and find out more about this issue and ways you can help.

TOUR OF SOLAR HOMES

The National Tour of Solar Homes is making its way to the Rochester area on Saturday, October 7 and Saturday, October 14 from 10 AM to 4 PM. Several homeowners will open their doors to visitors for a firsthand look at practical uses of renewable energy. These homes, featuring solar heating, photovoltaics, and energy conservation, show that practical applications are alive and well in our community. Admission is free. For more information and to obtain directions to the sites, contact Nancy Allinger at 716-624-2382 or at solartour@eznet.net or check the website www.home.eznet/~renuabil.

The National Tour of Solar Homes is taking place in hundreds of communities around the Untied States from Florida to Alaska. For more information, contact the American Solar Energy Society at 303-443-3130 or on the web at www.ases.org.

CALLING ALL SIERRANS!

Here is your chance to become more involved in the month-to-month activities of your Rochester Regional Group. The election of officers season is upon us, and now is the time for nominations. The following positions presently comprise the Excom: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Representative to the Chapter Excom, Alternative Representative to the Chapter Excom, Conservation Committee Chair, Membership Chair, Program Chair, Outings Chair, Fundraising, Publicity, and Communications. If you are interested in learning more about these offices, please call nominating chair Sarah Fasick at 582-3194. Election ballots will appear in the November/December Eco-logue.

WOLVES ENDANGERED

by Hal Bauer

The major role of the Gray Wolf in the natural history of our lower 48 states was in regulating large ungulate prey. As buffalo and elk were destroyed by immigrant Americans in the 1800s, so wolves were shot, trapped, or poisoned to near extinction by the mid 1900s. Only a few hundred wolves were remaining in Northern Minnesota. In 1974, our Federal government passed the Endangered Species Act (ESA) which has increased protection and improved wolf numbers from a few hundred to a few thousand, mostly in a few western Great Lakes states. Most of the other 48 states, including New York, have no wolves, and perhaps never will, for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is about to remove their endangered classification for the majority of States..

If you support research and discussion of wolf recovery in more States, please encourage the maintenance of the existing protections under the ESA by writing (before Nov. 10) Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Wolf Comments, P.O. Box 7669, Room 301, Missoula, Montana 59807, or e-mail to GRAYWOLFMAIL@FWS.GOV. Online U.S. policy can be found at: <http://midwest.fws.gov/wolf>. Non-profit advocacy groups include: www.defenders.org and www.wolf.org.

LIVING DOWNSTREAM

Ecologist and cancer survivor Sandra Steingraber will give a talk Wednesday, Sept. 20th, 7 PM at Shults Center, Nazareth College. Sandra is an international expert on environmental links to cancer and author of the book *Living Downstream: An Ecologist Looks at Cancer and the Environment*. Her talk will be free and open to the public.

POPULATION AND SUSTAINABILITY

This committee is considering alternative meeting places and times. Anyone potentially interested in attending a meeting should contact Hal Bauer at 335-2623.

Rochester Regional Group
of the Sierra Club
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CALENDAR

Sept. 7	Thursday	7:00 PM	Kandid Coalition ¹	6 Sibley Place
Sept. 14	Thursday	5:30 PM	Ex-Com meeting ²	St. John's Meadows ³
Sept. 20	Wednesday	7:15 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Sept. 28	Thursday	6:45 PM	General Meeting (see page 1)	Seneca Park Zoo
Oct. 5	Thursday	7:00 PM	Kandid Coalition ¹	6 Sibley Place
Oct. 12	Thursday	5:30 PM	Ex-Com Meeting ²	St. John's Meadows ³
Oct. 14	Saturday	5:00 PM	Sierra Club Fall Festival (see page 1)	Tay House, Cobbs Hill Park
Oct. 15	Sunday		Eco-logue deadline	
Oct. 18	Wednesday	7:15 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Oct. 29	Sunday	1:30 PM	Eco-logue Mailing	6 Sibley Place ⁴
Oct. 30	Monday	7:15 PM	General Meeting, (see page 1)	Third Presbyterian Church

¹Call Gilly Burlingham, 237-6378, for more information

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

³Call Ginny Tyler, 244-4084 for directions (members invited)

⁴Call Ray Nelson, 342-2734 to confirm time & location

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.