

## Recycling and Sustainability Membership Program

Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7PM  
Brighton Town Hall  
2300 Elmwood Ave.

Recently our tour of the Monroe County Recycling Center (see article below) was so popular that we had to turn people away. So, as a follow-up, we are offering members and the public a Sierra Club program on Recycling and Sustainability. Monroe County is about to launch an information campaign on the expansion of their important recycling program. And Blue Boxes are certainly a first step in raising consciousness about our need to create a society that is environmentally healthy and fully sustainable. Pat Collins, Monroe County Senior Industrial Waste Technician, will speak about local recycling efforts.

We are fortunate to have a local recycling program that is expanding, not collapsing as are some in communities of New York State. But the larger issue of raising consciousness on the importance of creating a self-sustaining, fully renewable society remains well beyond the Blue Box. Professor Ann Howard of the Environmental Science Department of R.I.T. will address this issue in her remarks on creating a sustainable society. As usual, there will be time for questions and discussion.

## A Place of Beauty

by Frank J. Regan,  
Conservation Chairperson

It may be difficult for some to visualize a dusty factory building full of conveyor belts, grinding tractors, and mountains of trash as a thing of beauty.

*Come and Celebrate*

❄️ ❄️ ❄️

## the Winter Solstice

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

**Thursday, December 11<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 Chestnut Court residence at St. John's Meadows to enjoy ourselves at this gathering of members and friends. You are invited by the Executive Committee of the Rochester Group of the Sierra Club for wine & cheese (5:30pm), a shared supper (6:30pm) and a nature program. Please bring a dish to share and we will bring the wine and extras. The nature

program is not set yet but will probably be a travelogue with pictures by various members who have been to exciting natural places in the world. If you have an outdoor adventure you'd like to share (with or without slides), please call Hugh at 244-2625.

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

But that is what came to my mind at our club's first tour of the Monroe County Recycling Center. Wonderfully busy, for most of the sorting of Monroe County's recyclables gets accomplished there. The building excites one's intellectual admiration. All this stuff-

-newspapers, plastics, glass containers, and cardboard--is not headed to a leaching, fouling landfill, but is instead being reinvigorated as raw material for more products. No tearing up forests, no streams and rivers contaminated

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Monroe County Recycling Center

## FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

A five year drought. Thousands of acres of mountain pines dead from insect attack.

Massive forest fires

in the West. The tops of western mountains once white with snow as in the Rockies, North Cascades and Glacier Park now bare. Any amateur like me, just back from a western tour, can conclude we are in a period of dangerous warming of earth's climate. So why can't the Bush administration consider the facts and make the environmental future of this country a top priority?

Here are a few other environmental conditions we observed on our 7,000 mile trip around the USA. Human impact on this great land has affected almost all areas, even places you might consider wild like Yellowstone Park and the Black Hills. There has been a voracious consumption of resources, most noticeable in the scars left from clear cut logging. But we also saw too much evidence of eroded soil,

inadequate drinking water supplies, depleted reservoirs, blocked salmon runs, and productive farmland turned into office parks and sub-divisions. And if these transformations are so evident in the richest nation on earth - what about the environment of poorer nations?

The National Academy of Science says, "We are conducting an uncontrolled experiment with the planet." Human activity, as pointed out in *Earth Rising* by Philip Shabecoff, is beginning to strain the ability of this small, finite planet to sustain us. So why do local, state and national governments continue to plug for growth and expansion rather than sustainability and limits to growth?

My own investigation into this question suggests that contributions to both local and national political parties and candidates by wealthy corporations, law firms, and the construction industry are made with the expectation that these contributions will buy approval for future development. In short, too often our government is for sale, which results in approval for sprawl, destructive resource depletion and the whole sad story of environmental destruction.

## Conservation Meeting

6:30 - 8PM, Thursday, Nov. 20  
at The Corner Place,  
983 Monroe Ave. Rochester

Looking for a way to make a difference? Announcing the first Conservation meeting of the Rochester Sierra Club--in some time. The Conservation Committee is an integral part of the Sierra Club. It is set up to identify critical conservation issues and to assist Chapter or Group leaders in developing conservation priorities and campaign plans. Many issues have recently emerged such as the Neighborhood Notification Law in Monroe County, the introduction of herbicides into some of our Finger Lakes, protecting public parks, irradiated meat, and soil and water contamination in residential areas.

But, many of these issues have had to slide because the only resource we have had to effect change is the Club's Executive Committee--which has many other concerns related to our Group. In other words, there is a lot to do and we need many individuals willing to devote a few hours a month to make a dramatic difference in our effectiveness. Why not come out to our Conservation Committee meeting, and decide then if you can do more. It's at 6:30, Thursday, Nov. 20, at the Corner Place at 983 Monroe Avenue (a great public gathering place with free coffee and snacks).

Here are some of the programs our group will consider:

1. An education program to give property owners the tools to grow pesticide-free lawns and gardens.
2. A continuing education program for high schools to inform our children about their environment and what they can do to help.
3. Special projects that encourage

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## Coastal Cleanup

by Laura Arney

Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club participated in the International Coastal Cleanup on Saturday September 20, 2003, recognizing the Great Lakes Region as the "North Coast" of the U.S.

Members and other volunteers



picked up items that littered the Genesee River bank. Particularly plentiful were mono-filament fishing line, Styrofoam cups, food

wrappers, and drink bottles. We kept a list of things we picked up. 544 pounds of trash was collected in all. Some of us followed an "historic Indian trail" that leads toward the Veterans Memorial Bridge. We listed but did not remove 93 discarded tires in an informal camp by the river. Thanks to all for helping Clean Air/Clean Water in Rochester. (photos by Trish Ralph)



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*(A Place of Beauty, cont. from page 1)*  
 by an entire county's garbage. Instead, there is money to be made and the raw materials for new products readied for sound markets. Sound like a simple idea? It is. But, many communities, probably a majority around the world, do not succeed at recycling, that is, make a profit while taking care of a lot of waste.

We hosted this month's tour of the Monroe County Recycling Center not only to find out how Monroe County recycles so well, but to highlight the county's program to increase articles acceptable in your blue recycling boxes. Check in your phone book for specific

details, or better yet, go to the county's recycling center information on "How and What to Recycle in Monroe County" at [www.monroecounty.gov/](http://www.monroecounty.gov/)

This tour, conducted by Mr. Patrick Collins, Sr. Industrial Waste Technician, turned out to be a popular and informative program with our members. It only takes forty-five minutes, allows you a great view of trash in transition, and allows you to ask any question you might have about recycling. We will try to conduct more tours of the Recycling Center, so keep reading the Eco-logue for the next tour dates.

*Conservation Meeting (cont. from pg 2)*  
 local businesses to adopt sound food packaging practices and discouraging the use of irradiated meat.

4. Help put together an on-going environmental television program to educate the public.

5. Create a Watch List of local environmental concerns and help local groups solve these problems.

Skills our group will develop include contacting other groups and government officials, writing letters, editing articles, and researching specific topics. These skills will enable you to join with future friends in protecting our area's environmental health.

## Lunar Eclipse Hike, Letchworth State Park

Saturday, Nov. 8, 6:30 PM

Our region's premier natural attraction, the Letchworth gorge, will also provide an excellent vantage spot for viewing the expected lunar eclipse on this date. Meet at 6:30 PM at the

lower parking lot at First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South. Call Hugh at 244-2625 if weather is questionable.

ORDER FORM

### SIERRA CLUB 2004 CALENDARS

Make Check or money order payable to: <b>Sierra Club - Rochester</b> Mail check and order form to: <b>Sierra Club, c/o Ray Nelson</b> <b>42 Tyringham Rd.</b> <b>Rochester, NY 14617</b> Questions? Call Ray Nelson at 342-2734 <b>Note:</b> Buying Calendars from us helps the local Rochester Regional Group	CALENDAR	Price	Quantity	Amount
	Wilderness Calendar	\$12.94*		
	Engagement Calendar	\$14.02*		
*Price includes 8.25% sales tax				Subtotal:
Sold to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____				Shipping: \$4.00
Ship to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____				Total:

# CALENDAR

Nov. 8	Saturday	6:30 PM	-----Outing: Letchworth lunar eclipse -----	meet at First Unitarian Church <sup>1</sup>
Nov. 13	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting <sup>3</sup>	St. John's Meadows
Nov. 17	Monday	7:00 PM	Membership Mtg.: Recycling & Sustainabillity (see page 1)	Brighton Town Hall <sup>2</sup>
Nov. 19	Wednesday	7:30 PM	-----Energy Committee -----	-----123 Alliance Ave. <sup>4</sup>
Nov. 19	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Nov. 20	Thursday	6:30 PM	-----Conservation Committee (new, see page 2) -----	The Corner Place, 983 Montoe Ave.
Dec. 5	Friday	5-9 PM	Alternative Craft Fair	First Unitarian Church <sup>1</sup>
Dec. 6	Saturday	9AM-3PM	Alternative Craft Fair	First Unitarian Church <sup>1</sup>
Dec. 11	Thursday	5:30 PM	----- Winter Solstice Party (see page 1) -----	----- St. John's Meadows <sup>5</sup>
Dec. 14	Sunday		Eco-logue deadline	
Dec. 17	Wednesday	7:30 PM	-----Wetlands Committee -----	----- 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Dec. 18	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting <sup>3</sup>	St. John's Meadows

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

<sup>5</sup> Chestnut Court, Johnsarbor Drive West

<sup>2</sup> 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester

<sup>3</sup> Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625

<sup>4</sup> Call 576-1421 for information and directions

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 information about Sierra Club events and voice mail