

Fifth Annual Fall Festival

Satisfy Your Senses

Saturday, Oct. 16, Brighton Town Park Lodge, 777 Westfall Rd.

This year the Annual Sierra Club Fall Festival offers a package of delights: a hike/bike tour to get your appetite going, followed by a homemade pasta dinner, a brief presentation on local environmental progress, and a concert by a favorite local folk artist, Maria Gillard. It's hard to predict which will delight your senses more: the exercise, the tasty feast, or Maria's music.

Brighton Town Park abuts the Erie Canal Heritage Trail, and the Festival begins at 5:00 with an informative **hike/bike tour** along parts of this trail. It will include comments by experts about a proposal to build a trail connecting this trail with Highland Park. (See our web page for more details.)

At 5:30 guests are welcome for appetizers. **Dinner** begins at 6:00. This year, Genevieve Russo returns to whip up her outstanding Italian pasta sauces (meat and vegetarian, of course) served over penne – a huge hit at the 2002 festival! (If you're lucky, Genevieve may share her recipe.) Dinner also includes Greek salad, garlic bread, dessert (lots of chocolate) and soft drinks, coffee, or tea.

Following dinner, there will be a brief talk about local urban trails, past and (hopefully) future.

Entertainment

Finally, the evening peaks with Rochester's own Maria Gillard. Maria's

guitar work is a mix of folk, blues, and swiny jazz propelled by her rich alto voice. Her original songs invoke universal themes of life, love, and family through story and humor. As Jeff Spevak of the D&C notes, her "easy going style is a trap, drawing the listener into lyrics that stare straight into the sun." If you've seen her on stage or



Maria Gillard

heard her on the radio, you know that her energy is engaging and contagious. Maria has opened for such folk heroes as Loudon Wainwright III, John McCutcheon, Cheryl Wheeler, and others.

Come enjoy October's splendor in the beautiful Brighton Town Park, and help support your club at the same time.

Tickets

Tickets are available through the mail or from the Executive Committee:

Club Members, in advance:

Adults: \$20

Children: \$10

Members at the door, & non-members:

Adults: \$25

Children: \$15

Please mail a check to David Ruekberg, 3558 Oatka Creek Rd., Leroy, NY, 14482. Please note which kind of tickets you'd like, and be sure to include your return address. Questions? Call David at 538-6463, E-mail SierraRochTix@hotmail.com, or visit our web page. See you there!

Rochester's Toxic Legacy

A Sierra Club Program

7:15 PM, Monday, September 27th
Brighton Town Hall
2300 Elmwood Ave.

Americans are an optimistic and forward looking people. We do not like to focus on the past. But unfortunately when it comes to the bad old manufacturing processes of past Rochester history, we **have** to look at the toxic waste dumps which threaten our health today. One such site is 'Air Force Plant 51' which produced landing barges and other war equipment in the 1940's & 50's and then left a toxic legacy of large and poisonous proportions.

We have secured a grant from the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club to fund an in-depth investigative report by Jack Bradigan Spula on the dangerous wastes left at this huge World War II plant at the end of Dewey Avenue. Jack will present his research findings at a Sierra Club meeting and we will have a panel of respondents to further reveal some of the secrets we may not want to know about on Rochester's toxic legacy. Free and open to the public.

Movers and Bakers Wanted

Are you handy with tables, chairs, or a mixing spoon? One more way you can help your local Sierra Club is by pitching in with the upcoming Fall Festival on October 16. We need volunteers to help with setting up, taking tickets, serving food, cleaning up, running errands, and making baked goods. If you can help, please contact David Ruekberg at 538-6463 or SierraRochTix@hotmail.com as soon as possible. Thanks.

FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

As an advocacy group, the Sierra Club tackles the tough issues which others avoid. A leading example of this is our effort to restart cleanup on the large toxic waste dump at "Air Force Plant 51" which is immediately next to the Monroe County Water Authority's treatment plant. We have secured a grant from the Atlantic Chapter to publish an in-depth investigative report written by Jack Bradigan Spula. The report will be completed soon and a committee will hold a meeting on September 7th to address Jack's findings and plot our next actions. If you are interested in the issue of toxic wastes poisoning our environment please give me a call.

There will be a membership meeting (open to the public) on the subject of **Rochester's Toxic Legacy** on September 27th, 7 PM, at Brighton Town Hall (see page 1). Jack will present the paper and a panel of experts will respond. The financial implications of this project are huge and could help New York secure part of the \$4 billion dollar Great Lakes Restoration bill currently being considered by Congress. Come and find out more.

On wetlands

The entire New York environmental community is feeling great disappointment as well as more than a little anger at Senator Joe Bruno's almost single handed blocking of the **NYS Wetland Preservation bill**, which had more than enough Republican Senators committed for passage. Dan Grisley, head of our Wetlands Committee, has the most up-to-date information on this critical piece of legislation. Call him at 671-5388. This will be the leading environmental issue in 2005.

I would also like to make a pitch for you to become more pro-active in helping. For example, we have at least 350 new members, but no one has volunteered to help organize outreach to them. Call me (244-2625) if you can

The Renaissance Square Project

Environmentalists Should Have a Role

By Frank J. Regan, Conservation Chairperson

Recently, I met with Mark Aesch, Executive Director of Renaissance Square Corporation (RS), the group responsible for Rochester's largest developmental project in some forty years. The Rochester Regional Group is hoping for the opportunity to be a part of the secondary oversight committee of the Renaissance Square project. This significant capital development needs substantial input from all citizens of Rochester, especially the environmental community. We view the Renaissance Square project, and other large community development undertakings not as obstructionists, but as partners in the challenge to fight poorly planned runaway development and promote smart developments that increase transportation choices, reduce air and water pollution, and protect our natural places.

The Renaissance Square project involves two of the Sierra Club's most vital concerns: sprawl and air quality. Rochester is twelfth of America's most sprawl-impacted regions. And, according to the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency, "The Rochester region is failing to meet new health standards for ground level ozone pollution." This means that the Renaissance Square project, partly funding through the Federal Transportation Act (TEA-21), should try to increase public transportation usage and help reduce air pollution from our public transportation system. Moreover, because the project involves an underground garage filled with people and idling buses, there should be close attention paid to how the proposed air filtering system attenuates the dangerous gases that will accumulate. The Sierra Club wants to be there to evaluate the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) environmental impact study for this final project and to help assure that the public has an opportunity to be involved.

We are awaiting the Renaissance Square Corporation's decision on our participation in the secondary oversight committee and we will keep our group abreast of any updates on this project.

Bucket Brigade

Bad Air is a
Bad Sign
Call the
Bad Air Hotline

New Lawn signs are being placed in Kodak neighborhoods to help the Kandid Coalition Bucket Brigade locate areas of air pollution. Sampling air quality and registering complaints lets the DEC, Kodak, and the EPA know we



are aware of industry impacts on quality of life.

To participate, call 234-0637 or Laura Arney at 334-8548

help. Call also if you are interested in Sierra Club's national effort to support John Kerry and **remove George W. Bush from the White House.**

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.

Energy 2004 Comes to Rochester

by Bob Siegel

This year the US Department of Energy held their annual conference at the Rochester Convention Center. Close to 1400 people attended this three-day event. Most of them were government employees or energy related businesses with a strong emphasis on renewable energy solutions. After Senator Clinton's visit this past winter, there seems to be a lot happening to establish the Rochester area as a leader in the renewable, or as she called it, smart energy field.

In addition to a substantial display booth area, there were a number of seminars that were organized along eight specialized learning tracks including acquisition, alternative financing, operations and maintenance, energy, security, new technologies for vehicles and buildings, policy, planning, renewable, and sustainability. Many of the speakers were from the armed services, which might be surprising at first, but when you consider that the military is the largest consumer of energy in the country, it makes sense that they would be interested in trying to find ways to do more with less. (The DOD has set a goal of reducing their energy use by 35% by the year 2010.) Some of the sessions I attended included Integrated Sustainability Planning and Design, Solar Energy: A Sunny Future, and Biomass to Energy: Don't Waste the Opportunity.

The overall message of the conference was that there are a lot of people working on this, and great progress is being made despite the lack of support from the current administration. Of course, a lot more needs to be done, especially given the recent climate data, and hopefully with new leadership at the top next year, much more will be done.

Environmental Leaders Meet in Rochester

The Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club received a rare invitation to accompany former Utah governor Michael Leavitt, new head of the Environmental Protection Agency, on a three hour tour aboard the research vessel *Lake Guardian*. Included on this tour were Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (who we have endorsed for reelection) and Congressman Thomas Reynolds, both of whom are key players in the \$4 billion dollar Great

Lakes Restoration bill currently before Congress. Unfortunately, rather than approve this bill with funding, the Bush administration has chosen instead to send Mr. Leavitt on a Great Lakes tour to promote the formation of a collaborative effort to study the future of the Great Lakes. The timing of this tour just before the National elections seems to suggest that it is strongly tinged with the political color red.

- Hugh Mitchell



Leaders Meet: Stephany Adersley (Democratic Leader, Monroe County Legislature), Michael Leavitt (Head of EPA), Hugh Mitchell (Conservation Chair, Atlantic Chapter, Sierra Club), Elizabeth Thorndike (Center for Environmental Information & Sierra Club)

Coastal Clean-up

September 18, 8:30-11:00 AM

The Sierra Club will again participate in the 19th International Coastal Clean-up sponsored by the Water Education Collaborative. We go rain or Shine. Meet at the fisher folk's parking area, Seth Green Drive at the junction of Norton and St. Paul St., Rochester. Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes. The trip Leader is Laura E. Arney. Call 334-8548 to sign-up and get details.

Global Warming Program

Global Warming and Rochester
Monday, Nov. 15th, 7:00-9:30 PM
Brighton Town Hall,
2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester

How will Global Warming affect Rochester and what can we do about it? There will be a one-hour presentation on the specific ramifications of Global Warming on our area. The speaker will be David W. Wolfe from Cornell University. There will be time for questions and answers.

Clean Water

by Laura Arney

Water is the next currency; in other words, gold. In fact it is worth more than gold. All human, animal and plant processes are dependent on abundant clean water.

World population is growing and putting pressure on all water resources. People live in regions of drought and desert. People live in areas where well water is depended on. City and Towns utilize water from lakes and rivers. Governments develop public services which ensured water is clean and available to the community. This water hasn't always been free but it hasn't been commercialized and sold to the highest bidder, until recently.

Privatizing Water

PBS recently broadcast a POV (Point of View) program July 13, 2004, called **Thirst**. It showed demonstrations going on right now around the world-India, South America, Africa. Some cities and Villages have sold their water systems to private businesses. As a result some people who used to get water easily cannot afford to buy it. They feel that

their water has been taken away from them, and so they protest.

Our Lakes

When we talk about Clean Water, it is not just another pretty slogan by environmentalists. Clean Water is the one resource that historically has determined where people lived. Rochester's adjacent lakes made this region a desirable place to live. In this year of plenty of water, we could easily dismiss the issue as irrelevant. But even in this plenty, water that falls from the sky can already be contaminated and is quickly mixed with water in lakes and streams that are often polluted. Water is still vulnerable.

Protecting our Water

Where are those people who want clean water in Lake Ontario, the Genesee River, Conesus Lake? These are all drinking water sources. Fishing is prime. Who wants industry, (including local Eastman Kodak) to be held accountable for taking clean water and returning dirty water? If we do not have on-the-ground watchers, citizens and

DEC alike, who else will care enough for our water?

Please find time in your busy day to write to DEC at both the state and local levels to call for more testing and monitoring oversight at places such as Kodak King's Landing waste water treatment plant. Be sure to include your own specific concerns. Address your letters to the officials listed below. E-mail message may be made at the DEC website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/about/emailform.html>

Ms. Erin M. Crotty Commissioner, DEC
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1011

Mr. Sean Hanna, Region 8 director, DEC
6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd. (Rtes. 5 & 20)
Avon, NY 14414-9519

Mr. Peter A. Lent, Regional Permit Administrator, DEC
6274 E. Avon-Lima Rd. (Rtes. 5 & 20)
Avon, NY 14414-9519

Nominations for ExCom Now Open

Do any or all of the following describe you?

★ I want to do more to help our environment.

I I want to develop my executive skills by helping coordinate the environmental concerns of nearly 2,500 local residents.

I I want to share my existing skills and knowledge with an active but understaffed local environmental organization.

If so, consider becoming a member of our Executive Committee (ExCom). Nominations are now open for election to fill six seats on our ExCom.

The ExCom meets on the second Thursday of each month for two hours. Some members of the Ex-Com perform

specific duties, such as Conservation Chair. Others serve "at-large." Presently we desperately need a Membership Chair to communicate with new members and plan get-togethers.

Other opportunities for Ex-Com members include traveling to Sierra Club training meetings in different parts of the country, and representing our group on the Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee at various locations in New York State. Whether near or far, joining other folks of like mind can be energizing and rewarding.

If you are interested in running for election to the ExCom, contact David Ruekberg, Nominating Committee Chairperson, at 538-6463 or druekberg@msn.com.

Strategic Ignorance

A Timely Book

"Strategic Wilderness" by Carl Pope (executive director of the Sierra Club) and Paul Rauber was written to wake people up about what is happening to our environment. As Publishers Weekly put it, the message is "Americans ought to be madder than they are about the Bush administration's environmental deceit." The book contains countless examples of public lands being sold or made available for logging, drilling, and mining; of environmental laws and policies being weakened and/or not enforced; and of stifling government scientific research into environmental problems, etc. etc.. To read more about this book and/or to order a copy, visit www.strategicignorance.com

Fall Outings, 2004

Date/Time	Destination	Leader
Sept. 18 at 9:30 AM Meet at parking lot near picnic area in Genesee Valley Park	Biking the Genesee Valley Greenway Bring your bicycle: ride the Genesee Valley Greenway trail to Scottsville along a deserted canal. View the remnants of locks.	Howard Camp
October 9 at 8:30 AM, meet in parking lot at First Unitarian Church for carpool	Just to the west of Rochester lie over 19,000 acres of well-managed wetland habitat at the Iroquois Wildlife Refuge. Survey geese and other large waterfowl on one of their primary migration routes in the Eastern United States. Bring along lunch and a beverage.	Hugh Mitchell
November 13 at 9:30 AM, meet in parking lot at First Unitarian Church	Turning Point Park serves up gems of serenity unexpectedly close to urban Rochester: two waterfalls, fall foliage vistas, as well as protected trails for wild bird observation	Howard Camp

Political Endorsements

The Sierra Club frequently endorses political candidates whose voting record or stated platform is consistent with the Club's environmental goals.

This year we have endorsed John Kerry for President and we strongly urge you to vote for him and work for his election if possible. We have also endorsed Representative Louise Slaughter for Congress, as well as David Koon and Susan John for NYS Assembly. We urge you to vote for all of them, particularly Susan John who may be in a tight race. The endorsement process is still underway and more candidates may be added to the list. Check our web site for the latest political endorsements. Above all:

BE SURE TO VOTE.

A Belated Thank-You

Thanks to David, Jeannie & Judy for attending the Scout Sweep cleanup, co-sponsored by Starbucks, at Genesee Valley Park on April 17. There were 525 volunteers and we picked up 1350 lbs. of garbage along 7 miles of trails along the Erie Canal and Genesee River way.

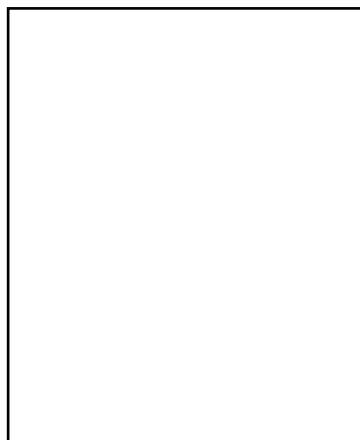
- Deb Muratore

In Memory

We are very sorry to report that one of the Rochester Group's longest, most loyal members, Dr. John D. Mould, has died. Even in declining health and with increasing mobility problems, John (a member for 33 years) almost never missed a membership meeting. Now the full story on the depth of his commitment to a better environment can be told. John Mould was one of our strongest financial backers. In fact, his family and widow Marilyn, have generously announced that contributions in John's memory can be made to the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club, P.O. Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604. There will be an empty seat of honor at our next Club meeting.

SIERRA CLUB 2005 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2005 Engagement Calendar-
Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and 'wire-o' binding.



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**To Order call:
Dave Ruekberg
538-6463**

Sierra Club 2005 Wilderness Wall Calendar-Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

CALENDAR

Sept. 7	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Planning meeting, Rochester's Toxics Committee	147 Hillside Ave., Rochester
Sept. 9	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ²	Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Sept. 11	Saturday	9AM-3PM	Peace Works Fair	Court St. Bridge, Rochester
Sept. 18	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Bike the Greenway (see page 5)	see note 4 below
Sept. 18	Saturday	8:30 AM	Coastal Cleanup (see page 3)	see note 6 below
Sept. 21	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Alternative Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E ³
Sept. 22	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Sept. 27	Monday	7:15 PM	General Meeting: Rochester's Toxic Legacy	Brighton Town Hall⁵
Oct. 9	Saturday	8:30 AM	Outing: Iroquois Wildlife Refuge (see page 5)	Meet at First Unitarian Church¹
Oct. 14	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ²	Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Oct. 16	Saturday	5:00 PM	Fall Festival (see page 1)	Brighton Town Park Lodge, Westfall Rd.
Oct. 17	Sunday		Eco-logue Deadline	
Oct. 19	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Alternative Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E ³
Oct. 20	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Nov. 13	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Turning Point Park	Meet at First Unitarian Church¹
Nov. 15	Monday	7:15 PM	General Meeting: Global Warming	Brighton Town Hall⁵

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South
²Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.
³Call Mike Dahl, 586-4618, for directions

⁴Eastside parking lot near picnic area, Genesee Valley Park
⁵2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester
⁶Parking area on Seth Green Drive at junction of St. Paul and Norton

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 FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com and put "subscribe SC Mailing List" in the subject line.

Call 585-244-2625 for information about Sierra Club events and voice mail.