



eco-logue

CALENDARS ARE IN
see page 3

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

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Nov/Dec/Jan 2004-5

Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

Come share a cup of cheer and welcome our New Members



5:30PM, Thursday, December 9th,

at Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows*



Did you know "solstice" is defined as "either of two moments in the year when the Sun's path is farthest north or south of the Earth's Equator"? In the Northern Hemisphere the winter solstice is on December 21st or 22nd - but we plan to celebrate the solstice a little earlier on December 9th.

In acknowledgement of our beautiful seasons and the coming of the winter solstice, our Rochester Regional Group holds an annual event. This year we are combining a welcome to winter with a new-member appreciation party.

Please join Sierra Club members on Thursday December 9 for our annual winter solstice celebration. The event will again be held at Chestnut Court in St. John's Meadows senior home. The celebration starts at 5:30pm with wine and hors d'oeuvres. Following the appetizers, we have a buffet-style dinner. All except new members are asked to bring a dish to be shared with everyone. There will be a modest program

following dinner.

In ancient days the Druids lit huge fires on the tops of hills and danced wild dances to coax the sun to return. Although we probably will not go quite that extreme, the event is always fun and warms the cockles of the hearts of old and young alike. We can mingle and get to know one another.

Please consider joining us, as we get ready to enter the winter season and don't hesitate to bring family or companions.

* 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 and sign, bear right on Johnsarbor Drive West to Chestnut Court which is well marked with a sign. Plenty of parking.

If you plan to come, a call to the Sierra Club line (244-2625) would be appreciated. Please bring a dish to pass.

Fall Festival a Tasty Success

This year's Fall Festival was a modest but lively success, thanks to the delightful talents of local folk-singer and songwriter Maria Gillard, and the help of a host of volunteers. Hugh Mitchell began the event by organizing an informative hike in the blustery October air with DES Commissioner Ed Doherty. Next came dinner. Guests raved about the culinary talents of club member Genevieve Russo for her Puttanesca sauce, and of treasurer Deb Muratore for her pesto sauce. And then it was 90 minutes of homegrown music

with Maria Gillard.

Thanks also go to Barbara Mitchell who made salad, to Cecelia Crone for selling calendars, and to Paul Neumann, Nick Russo, and members of the Ex-Com for helping set up and clean up! (Apologies to any helpers not acknowledged.) Finally, thanks to everyone who attended! Even people who never "sing along" sang along! As ever, your contributions, whether of time or money, help your local club continue to do its vital work locally.

Global Warming & the Northeast

7:00 PM, Monday, Nov. 15
at Brighton Town Hall*

Does Global Warming leave you with that niggling feeling that it is so remote in time and space that it probably will not affect your life much at all? Well, Monday, November 15 at 7PM you will have a chance to glimpse how Global Warming could affect our area. There will be a one-hour presentation by David W. Wolfe, Professor of Research in environmental physiology and research/extension in soil and water management from Cornell University.

"The most recent report of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded that climate change is already upon us, and the impacts of this change will not be uniform across regions or species." —from Dr. Wolfe's program introduction on "Climate Change and Northeast Agriculture."

Some of the points, Dr. Wolfe will be discussing:

- History of CO2 & other GH gases
- Direct CO2 effects on plants
- Evidence of climate change
- Evidence of biological responses

Join us for this interesting program at 7PM, Monday, Nov. 15 at Brighton Town Hall. There will be time for questions and answers.

*Brighton Town Hall is at 2300 Elmwood Ave., Brighton

Find more information Online at:
http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/climate_change.htm

FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

Why wilderness? I know that Wilderness issues are usually not one of our top local priorities, but perhaps they should be. Recently I was privileged to attend the National Wilderness Conference celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. I learned a lot! In fact there's been a lot of solid conservation thought which has advanced the concept of Wilderness beyond Thoreau's often quoted expression, "In wilderness is the preservation of the world."

One of the exercises of the conference was to list answers to the question, "Why wilderness?" and "What are some reasons to preserve and expand it?" Answers ranged from Thoreau's maxim to practical and philosophic answers such as: for fun, recreation, solitude, animal preservation, genetic reserve, biological diversity or simply, "For itself."

Looked at purely from our human perspective we need wilderness for "heart space" or for the spiritual value wilderness offers to humanize us. It offers a chance to "...celebrate the deep, personal spiritual effects of life's mystery." Wilderness offers it all. But the American wilderness is threatened as never before. Take for example one of the greatest wilderness areas in the United States - the Adirondacks.

New Yorkers have a lot to be proud of in the Adirondack wilderness. Yet it's under a variety of threats ranging from aircraft noise intrusions to acid rain and insect infestations that are decimating the high forests. In a recent speech Prof. Gene Likens, the leading international expert on acid rain, reported that his forest research shows, in the aggregate, that the northern forests STOPPED GROWING in 1982 due to the effects of acid rain. Yet, the Bush administration has not adequately addressed the causes of acid rain and has undermined the Clean Air Act.

Sierra Club's CAFTA Campaign

by Jim Mays

A new trade agreement, this time with Central America, will likely come before Congress for approval after the election, in the so called "lame duck" session. The Sierra Club opposes this agreement because it limits government's ability to regulate environmental activities for the public good. We need our members to contact

their Congressional representatives and find out where they stand, and encourage them to vote "no." We especially need the help of constituents of Representatives John McHugh [NY23] and James Walsh [NY25] For more information see the Fall issue of Sierra Atlantic and contact Jim Mays at <james.mays@sierraclub.org>

Following the Money

by Deb Muratore, Treasurer

One might think that the expenses of Sierra Club Groups such as ours would be paid from the \$39 annual dues that our members pay. That is far from the case. For each \$39.00 annual single membership the Rochester Regional Group receives 96 cents plus about 40 cents for our educational Foundation. Based on approximately 2700 members, our total support equals only \$3,672. This does not cover all of our costs.

For example, the yearly cost of our five newsletters is about \$3750. Our other expenses include funding our local Clean Air/Clean Water, Conservation, Energy and Wetlands committees. We also pay room rentals for our monthly membership meetings, speaker fees, postal permit fee, post office box rental, and typical office expenses such as postage & paper, etc. Our total expenses excluding fundraising expenses are a minimum of \$5000.

To close the gap, we rely on fundraising events such as the Fall Festival and Calendar sales. But even though our Fall Festival was lot of fun, it did not bring in the kind of extra help

we need to pay our expenses. Here's the nub, **we need additional contributions from members like you.**

Our Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club is doing a lot. We have nine Ex-Com volunteers who are highly motivated to make a difference on local and state environmental issues. This group plans all the monthly membership and committee meetings, publishes the Ecologue, maintains the web site, visits our elected officials, holds press conferences, attends meetings of other environmental groups, writes letters to the editor of the local newspapers, attends Atlantic Chapter and occasionally National meetings. The Sierra Club name is well respected in this community and it takes extra time and money to run our local group.

You can help us keep the Group alive and effective by volunteering some of your time and/or by making a financial contribution. A check made out to the Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group would really help a lot. Send it to our post office box, Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604.

We need wilderness more than ever, so let's consider this issue an important local concern as much as it is a national Sierra Club issue. One great way to become involved is just to visit the Adirondacks as often as possible. The mountains will do the rest.

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.

Turning Point Park Outing

Saturday, Nov 13

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 will lead us on a tour of the park on Saturday, November 13. We gather at 9:00 AM at the First Unitarian Church parking lot. See you there. For more information, call Howard at 473-1410.

Cross Country Skiing

Training for Children & Beginners

2PM, Sunday, January 23, 2005 at Tay House near Cobbs Hill Park

Howard Camp has run a number of cross country ski outings for Sierra Club in past winters, but he always wonders why so few people turn up. Now we think we have the answer - there's a lot of people out there who don't know how to ski. We'd like to do something about this by offering a cross country ski training class for beginners of all ages. If you got a pair of skis for Christmas or if you can borrow a pair - bring them. If you need skis call 244-2625 and leave a message. We'll try to find skis for you.

The program will start at 2PM and run for an hour or so. If you don't ski but like to watch (from outside) we'll have hot chocolate for members and guests. Tay House is located on Hillside Avenue, Rochester, next to Cobbs Hill Park, behind School #1. Turn off Winton Road South at Hillside Avenue and head west toward Cobbs Hill Park or turn off Culver Road onto Norris Drive and drive through Cobbs Hill Park. The area offers both a flat field and a safe, gentle hill for skiing.



ORDER FORM

SIERRA CLUB 2005 CALENDARS

Make Check or money order payable to: Sierra Club - Rochester Mail check and order form to: Sierra Club, c/o David Ruekberg 3558 Oatka Creek Rd. Leroy, NY 14482 Questions? Call David at 538-6463 or E-mail: SierraRochTix@hotmail.com Note: 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:	
			Shipping: \$4.00 per calendar	
			Total:	
Sold to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____		Ship to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____		

CALENDAR

Nov. 11	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting	Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Nov. 13	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Turning Point Park -----	----- Meet at First Unitarian Church¹
Nov. 15	Monday	7:00 PM	General Meeting: Global Warming (see page 1)	Brighton Town Hall⁴
Nov. 16	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Alternative Energy Committee -----	----- 25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E ³
Nov. 17	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Dec. 2	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting ² -----	----- Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Dec. 9	Thursday	5:30 PM	Solstice Party (see page 1)	Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Dec. 14	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Alternative Energy Committee -----	----- 25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E ³
Dec. 15	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Jan. 13	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting ² -----	----- Chestnut Court, St. John's Meadows
Jan. 16	Sunday		Eco-logue Deadline	
Jan. 18	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Alternative Energy Committee -----	----- 25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E ³
Jan. 19	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Jan. 23	Sunday	2:00 PM	----- Beginners Skiing lesson (see page 3) -----	----- Tay House, Cobbs Hill Park

¹First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South

⁴2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester

²Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625.

³Call Mike Dahl, 586-4618, for directions

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.