

## Eighth Annual Environmental Forum

### *“Global Warming: Solutions That Work”*

6:00 - 9:00 PM, Thursday, April 20  
First Unitarian Church, 220 South Winton Road, Rochester

Free Admission

The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club is pleased to announce its Eighth Annual Environmental Forum—The Biggest Earth Day Event In Rochester. It is jointly sponsored by First Unitarian Church “Choices & the Environment” Task Force. It will be held at the First Unitarian Church at 220 Winton Road South on Thursday April 20.

Beverages

This year’s forum combines three major themes: global warming, renewable energy and sustainable business. Hence the title: Global Warming Solutions that Work. It will take place on Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00-9:00 PM at the Unitarian Church on Winton Road. The forum will feature a number of environmental exhibitors, a speakers forum and a Q&A session.

Food

We are fortunate this year to have as our speakers, two highly gifted, successful and committed Upstate New York business leaders who run sustainable companies that are highly involved with renewable energy.



**Roger Saillant**

Our keynote speaker is Roger Saillant, President & CEO of Plug Power a leading manufacturer of

#### Schedule

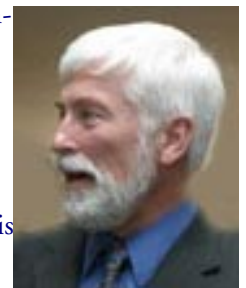
5:00 - 6:00 Groups set up displays  
6:00 - 7:00 Doors open for networking & touring displays  
7:00 - 8:30 Forum program  
8:30 - 9:00 Q & A

stationary fuel cell systems, located just outside of Albany, NY. Not only do they produce sustainable products, but the entire company is run with the intention of becoming a model of how a company can exist and function in a sustainable manner. Roger is a member of the Board of Directors of the New York State Audubon Society, the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York and The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education. His talk will be entitled: “A Workable Transition to Renewables.” Dr. Saillant will speak about the energy picture facing the inhabitants of our planet and the necessary transition to renewable energy. How long will it take and what are our best hopes? What can each of us do to maximize our chances of success?

Our second speaker will be Bob Bechtold, President of Harbec Plastics, Ontario, NY. Harbec is a sustainable manufacturing company that derives a substantial amount of its power from the large windmill located right on the premises. Many of you have seen their windmill on Route 104 just east of

Webster. His talk is entitled: How Can Western NY Respond to the Challenge of Global Warming? Bob will talk about the promise of wind power in this region as one element in a broad movement towards a more sustainable presence on the planet. He will also share his experience running a successful, sustainable business on the premise that being green is not more expensive. In fact, if business leaders are willing to take the long view, both in their thinking and their investment decisions, they will find that considering both the environmental and the financial bottom lines, will result in improved performance on both. Harbec Plastics is an injection molding company in Ontario, NY that is well on its way to becoming a fully sustainable manufacturing facility.

It is gratifying to see that given the complete lack of leadership on this issue in Washington, business leaders, as well as state governments, are stepping up to the plate to provide some much-needed support to try to get both our country and the global economy on a sane and sustainable track before it is too late.



**Bob Bechtold**

Information sharing

Group Displays

Networking

## FROM THE CHAIR



by Frank J. Regan

Diversion

For the past couple of years, my concentration on environmental matters has wavered, giving way often to my preoccupation with the war in Iraq. Every day, news of that devastated land kaleidoscopes between hope and despair and steals my attention. I am sure I am not alone. It is hard to maneuver through the mainstream news (already hell-bent on blood and guts) to the state of our environment. Just as our digestive juices shut down when we sense danger (giving into a basic biological principle that we may not need that last meal if we don't evade the present peril), what is going on in Iraq seems more important than a slight bulge in the thermometer, or a few miscreant chemicals in our drinking water.

That, of course, is the major threat these days: allowing our attention, which is continually monitored by politicians and the media, to be diverted off course. In particular, anything that takes everyone's mind off pollution, off lowering clean air and water standards, off the possible threat from a globe warming up, is a major threat to our existence. Although it may not seem so in the hurly-burly of a war gone badly, Nature rules. We cannot let our guard down for a moment because once something goes wrong with the workings of that which keeps us alive, it's not easy to get it back. Do the science.

So, under the annual realignment of our attention which Earth Day signifies, let us remember that it is our environment that we should be paying more attention to. Regardless of human travails, our environment marches to a different tune. Attention diverted from this is a future compromised. What can you do? Attending our 8<sup>th</sup> Environmental Forum will tell our

local politicians and the media that our environment really matters, that it is newsworthy. Your attendance makes a difference because your politicians and the media want to know what matters to you—it's how they operate. Come out this April 20<sup>th</sup> and find out the degree to which things are changing while we have allowed our attention to be diverted elsewhere. And find out, before it's too late, that there are many ways (more than just how to do without) that we can meet our energy needs without trashing the planet.

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## Watering Sprawl

by Hugh Mitchell

On March 8<sup>th</sup> Sierra Club held a news conference protesting the Monroe County Water Authority's plans to construct an unnecessary large new water treatment plant in Webster. We backed up our claims by releasing to the public our six page study titled Watering Sprawl written by Jack Bradigan-Spula and funded by the Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club. The essence of our argument is that construction of a new 50 million gallon a day plant may force the City to sell their water system to the Authority who have a record of aggressively expanding their pipes over the whole region. If they buy the City system we feel it could present a threat to the rare and beautiful upland watershed of Hemlock and Canadice Lakes. Even if a deal can be worked out to preserve these Finger Lake treasures, the City reservoir water will be released to encourage sprawl development along the route 5 & 20 corridor and other areas south of Rochester.

Publication of Watering Sprawl has sparked requests for us to republish our 50-page 2001 study on the inner workings of the Monroe County Water Authority called Sprawl Follows the Pipes. Both these papers can be obtained for \$10 total plus mailing costs. Send check to Sierra Club, PO Box 39516, Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

## Sierra Club Election

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. In March, you will receive in the mail your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well.

Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2006election>. This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choices and cast your votes. You will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark. A growing number of members find the user friendly Internet voting option to be very convenient as well as saving postage.

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.

## Sierra Club Book Study Group: Plan B

by Dave Ruekberg

In an effort to better educate ourselves about problems and solutions regarding the environment, a few members decided that we would like to form a book study group. Therefore, in conjunction with the Eighth Annual Environmental Forum, we have chosen to study Lester Brown's Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble. Brown's book is notable for its clear and readable analysis of dangerous stresses on the environment. Unlike many "gloom and doom" prophecies, Brown also offers practical solutions that citizens and leaders can implement right away. We will meet on Tuesday, April 25 and May 30 at 7 pm, in the Brighton Public Library. We will discuss half of the book at each session. Copies are available from your favorite bookseller, or via download from <http://www.earth-policy.org/Books/PB2/Contents.htm>. Hosted by David Ruekberg, Sara Rubin, and Nancy Chalker-Tennant. Future readings will be decided by the group. Members and non-members alike are invited.

### Girl Scout Event

by Cecelia Crone

On April 22, 2006, the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley will have a joint event at the Girl Scouts Center on John Street. The Girl Scouts and the Sierra Club have invited all Girl Scouts in the area and other environmental organizations to attend and educate Girl Scouts on wetlands, birds and water ecology. Adopt-a-Stream will provide the Girl Scouts with kits to test the water in our local streams and return the samples to earn their patch. Thanks to Laura Arney, Susan Stinson and Janet MacLeod from the Sierra Club and Mary McDowell from the Girl Scouts this will be a successful event.

## Eco-Terrorism?

by Frank J. Regan

"Too grisly to print" according to the Monday March 6 edition of the *Daily Messenger*. We acquired a copy of the subject photograph. It shows a coyote skinned and left in the driveway of someone who had the nerve to speak out against the Coyote Killing Contest in Honeoye. We too decided not to print the disturbing photograph in these pages. We decided to leave this space bereft of the photograph because it would otherwise instantly halt all rational discussion on the role of the coyote in our area.

Our efforts have been to educate the public on the larger role of top

predator in an environment increasingly hostile towards anything that annoys some people. (Note our very successful program on coyotes last November.) See <[http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/eastern\\_coyotes.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/eastern_coyotes.htm)>. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation admits that it needs to investigate the role that the Eastern Coyote now plays in an area without other major predators. But that is going to be difficult if a thoughtful inquiry is set against a background of prejudice, misinformation, and hideous retaliations for differing views on the worth of another creature.



**Too Grisley to Print**

Coyote Carcass left in Driveway of Hunt Foe

### Volunteer Database

Join our Volunteer Database [[http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/helping\\_out.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/helping_out.htm)]. You can sign up for specific projects or help on one of our Committees. Just send an E-mail to: [FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com](mailto:FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com) or call our Sierra Club Voice Box at 585-234-1056, or print out the online form and send it to: Rochester Regional Group P.O. Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604-9516.

### E-mail List Up and Running

Our unofficial Rochester Regional Group's E-mail list is now active. It is easy to subscribe and unsubscribe. We will only contact you for our Group's meetings, programs, and actions. Just add your E-mail to the Google Groups box at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/index.html>

## CALENDAR

April 6	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup> -----	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
April 18	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Alternative Energy Committee	149 Dartmouth St., Apt. D <sup>4</sup>
<b>April 20</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>6:00 PM</b>	<b>----- Eighth Annual Environmental Forum (see page 1) -----</b>	<b>----- First Unitarian Church<sup>5</sup></b>
April 25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Great Lakes Committee meeting -----	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
April 25	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
April 27	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>3</sup>
May 11	Thursday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup> -----	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
May 14	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
May 16	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Alternative Energy Committee -----	149 Dartmouth St., Apt. D <sup>4</sup>
May 18	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>3</sup>
May 23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Great Lakes Committee meeting -----	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
May 30	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Open to members. Call 234-1056

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

<sup>3</sup>Call Sara at 442-6890 or Dan at 671-5388 to confirm

<sup>4</sup>Call Bob at 576-8144 to confirm

<sup>5</sup>220 Winton Rd. South

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](mailto:FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com) and put  
“subscribe SC Mailing List” in the subject line.  
Call 585-234-1056 for Sierra Club voice mail.