

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 36, No. 4
Sept./Oct. 2006

Fall Festival

Saturday, September 30, 2006, 5 PM - 9 PM at the Tay House in Cobbs Hill Park*
**Featuring: "Four on the Floor" Jazz Quartet - Celebration of Environmental Progress
Nature Walk - Wine, Beer, Coffee, Tea - Desserts - Cheese & Crackers**

With the success of the Rochester Jazz Festival, we've decided to invite a Jazz Quartet to entertain us for an evening.

Four on the Floor Jazz Quartet provides easy listening instrumental music including familiar standard jazz tunes as well as smooth original compositions. Dance if the feeling moves you, or just sit back and enjoy the groove. The quartet consists of piano/keyboards, bass, drums/percussion, trumpet/flugelhorn.

Four on the Floor Jazz Quartet are also members of the Greece Jazz Band. For more information about the quartet, see page 3 and/or check out <http://www.greecejazzband.org/>. CD's will be

available for purchase at the Festival.

You can enjoy a nature walk at 5 PM led by Hugh Mitchell. Hugh can be counted on to help all ages identify trees, as well as share facts about environmental issues in the park area.

A brief presentation on local environmental progress will precede the concert.

Four on the Floor will entertain from 7 PM to 9 PM. Wine, beer, coffee, tea and desserts will be available for purchase. We will provide munchies - cheese & crackers, veggies & dip.

Tickets are \$10.00, free for children under 16. Tickets can be reserved in advance by calling the Sierra Club phone #585-234-1056 to leave a

message. We will add your name to a list and you can pick up the tickets at the door. Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the day of the festival.

Proceeds benefit your local Group of the Sierra Club.

Time: Doors open at 4:30 and the show starts at 7.

The Sierra Club mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. Please join us to explore Washington Grove behind the Tay House and enjoy an evening of music with old and new friends.

Movers & Bakers wanted:

Are you handy with tables, chairs
(continued on page 2)

*(directions to Tay house are on page 2)

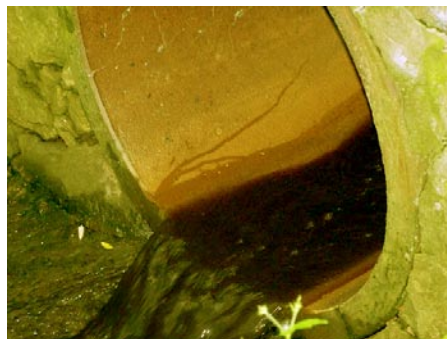
The Storm Drain on your Street:

Stormwater, Illicit Discharges and Water Quality

7:00 to 9:00 PM September 21, 2006, Brighton Town Hall auditorium
2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton

Does the term Stormwater get you to thinking of New Orleans and hurricane Katrina? We experienced a number of summer storms this year with heavy downpours that could have overwhelmed "the system". What does stormwater mean to the environment and water quality in Monroe County? Andy Sansone who is a Senior Industrial Waste Technician with the Monroe County Department of Environmental Services will present a program on Monroe County's work to reduce storm related pollution. Most municipalities in the county have been working to

comply with the new EPA Stormwater Phase II regulations. These regulations are intended to reduce non-point source pollution to the waters of the U.S. from such sources as construction sites



and illicit discharges.

Andy has been working to track down these "illicit discharges", which are illegal dumping or cross connections of household wastewater to storm sewers or streams. His detective work has produced immediate results.

The program's focus on stormwater (and its accompanying non-point source run-off) will help us to think of ways that we as residents can reduce the impact of stormwater on water quality.

This program is free and open to the public.

(Fall Festival, continued from page 1) or a mixing spoon? One more way you can help your local Sierra Club is by pitching in with the upcoming Fall Festival on Sept. 30.

We need volunteers to help with set up, take tickets at the door, serve food & drinks, clean up afterwards. Also needed are making desserts or providing munchies. Please contact Deb Muratore at 385-9743 to volunteer or leave a message on the Sierra Club phone #234-1056. Thanks.

Directions to Tay House Lodge:

From South Winton Road: Turn west (toward the city) at Temple Beth El onto Hillside Ave. At School #1 turn left into entrance to Tay House. (Hillside Ave. off Winton Road South is between East Ave. and Highland Ave. and can be easily accessed from Route 490.)

From Culver Road: Take Park Road (Norris Drive) through Cobbs Hill Park. At the Water Authority take the right fork to Hillside Avenue. Look for School #1.

Tay House parking is behind (west of) School #1. From the parking lot, walk up the hill to Tay House Lodge.



Tay House Lodge

More about
Four On the Floor

Our group consists of piano/ keyboards, bass, drums/percussion , trumpet / flugelhorn.

Barry Tee started his musical career playing drums and vibes. When Barry heard the jazz organist Jimmy Smith, the influence took hold, organ was now the new love and passion. Time moved on and so did Barry's search for other sounds, the piano and synthesizer supplied the colors, textures, and styles he was searching for. Over the years, he has performed with some of the big names in the business, JJ Walker, Dizzy Gillespie, Spider Martin, Jerry Niewood, Joe Romano to name a few. Not only a seasoned jazz veteran, Barry is also a music composer and arranger.

Brian Terho has been playing bass for the last 35 years in a wide variety of musical settings and styles. His most recent endeavors include the revival of a popular local classic rock band - Gunther's Bus, as well as playing with the Brighton Symphony Orchestra, several of the NIK entertainment bands, and ongoing private studies with Fred Stone as a student of both the classical and jazz idioms.

Glenn Morrell has played the trumpet for over 20 years. Most of his experience has been playing with larger ensembles such as orchestras and big bands. Presently Glenn is performing with the Greece Jazz Band which fills his desire for the big band sound, and

he gets to play with some very dedicated and talented players. Playing in a jazz quartet allows more intimacy with the audience, and allows the soft sound of the flugelhorn to come out more often.

Bobby Blandino has worked with many named musicians and 'every' jazz player in town. He has played drums/percussion with many nationally and internationally known artists who know to call him to play with them when they come to the Rochester area.

Bobby is known to have the "best brushes in the business".

For more information regarding band availability please contact: Four on the Floor Jazz Quartet, Glenn Morrell, gmorrell@lebsea.com, phone 585-478-8343 .

The Greece Jazz Band has been performing in the greater Rochester area since 1997. Created after community surveys indicated a desire to hear big band jazz, this volunteer big band has developed a varied repertoire of familiar standards, dance tunes, and modern high-energy jazz charts. The band's growing performance schedule includes holiday concerts at area Malls, several dance nights, numerous summer festivals and events. The band is also active in community and student outreach, playing concerts for the Town of Greece and with Greece school music groups.

Nominations for ExCom Now Open

Now is the time to consider becoming a member of our Executive Committee (Ex-Com), or nominating someone else to be a candidate. Six seats are open for the January election.

Ex-Com members steer the local Group to fulfill the mission of the Sierra Club. Prior experience is not necessary. If you can work in a group to make decisions that help people "explore, enjoy, and protect" the natural beauty of our area, you are Ex-Com material!

The ExCom meets for two hours on the first Thursday of each month. Some members of the Ex-Com perform additional duties, such as Conservation Chair, while others serve "at-large." Further opportunities have included training in San Francisco. Whether near or far, joining folks of like mind can be energizing and inspiring.

Nominations are due by October 1. Ballots will be included in the November/December Eco-logue. If you

are interested in running for election, please mail us a brief bio and statement of interest (note "Nominations" on the envelope), or E-mail SierraRochTix@hotmail.com.

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 and available at \$10 per year to others.

FROM THE CHAIR



Making Lemonade
By Frank J. Regan

We are truly living in extraordinary times. If the news on global warming has not convinced you, then maybe the accumulated data on the loss of biodiversity, the loss of species (almost equal to that when the dinosaurs died off), the horrific state of our oceans, or the spread of world-wide pollutants in our land, air and water, will. Or, perhaps you have seen these three environmental features this summer: Two movies: *Who Killed the Electric Car?* and *An Inconvenient Truth*, as well as the Discovery Channel's *Global Warming: What You Need To Know*. (This last program will be shown by the Sierra Club in November) You almost have to be actively avoiding the plethora of bad news about the state of our environment not to know things are getting desperate.

However, according to *New York Matters, Finger Lakes Region: Focus on the Economy*, a study about voter priorities for gubernatorial candidates, most New York voters do not put our environmental problems high on their priority list. (Read the report at www.NewYorkMatters.org.) Our

environment comes after taxes, jobs, education, economy, energy, and budget, at a mere 2%. While these other concerns are crucial to our way of life, they simply will not be a problem in an unsustainable environment. Nothing will. Yet, this report, allegedly grist for candidates insights on what New York State voters want, means that yet again this election year there will be no meaningful dialog on the state of our environment. And while most New Yorkers are "dissatisfied with state government's performance on the environment," protecting the environment is low on the list when they decide how they will vote. Except for Eliot Spitzer's position on changing the state's "brownfield" program (the Sierra Club has endorsed Mr. Spitzer), the candidates are not going to be talking about the environment. The public has not forced this issue. I guess that somehow everyone thinks the environment will 'fix' itself.

Adding to the American public's penchant for making the best out of bad situations, a good portion of us rushed to unhealthy beaches during our recent heat wave despite warnings. According to an article *Health Worries Over Bay Pollution* (Washington Post, August 3, 2006) where "more than 40 Maryland beaches, including several on the bay, violated public health standards

at least a quarter of the times they were tested." What makes the article scary is that much effort is made to avoid this unpleasant truth. The author of the article, Elizabeth Williamson, states, "The information that does reach the public often provokes objections from fishing and tourism interests." People don't want to know how bad the environment is, and many in positions of power don't want them to know.

We can see this desire to downgrade the importance of critical issues in operation these days only too clearly in Iraq, where the media and the Bush administration are trying to make lemonade out of the sour fruit of a possible major civil war. They say progress is being made, while our generals say that Iraq is very likely descending into chaos. The reality is that the US is sending more, not fewer (as promised), soldiers to prevent that from happening.

Let us not be so blinded by our desire to have a nice, pleasant planet that we fail to listen to the critical voices that are saying that there is something wrong. Please vote for our environment this year and demand that candidates explain their positions. You can find out how your candidates voted on environmental bills in the past from The League of Conservation Voters at <http://www.lcv.org/>.

Update on Unnecessary Webster Treatment Plant

by Hugh Mitchell

The Department of Environmental Conservation - Region 8 - has responded to pressure from the Sierra Club and others by deciding to require the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA) to participate in a full DEC public hearing on their license application to build a new \$128 million dollar water treatment plant in Webster. Previously only written comments on the multi-page application were required. If you want to read the application it is only available at the

offices of DEC Avon and MCWA on Norris Drive, Rochester. As of this August the date and location of this important public hearing have not yet been set.

The Sierra Club has argued for several years that the proposed Webster treatment plant is not only unnecessary but may result in a domino effect leading to the sale of the City's Hemlock based water system to the Authority. It is our argument that, as a primary, core utility MCWA is actually a major

regional development agency. See our arguments in our papers: *Sprawl Follows the Pipes* and *Watering Sprawl*.

One salient point to consider if you plan to testify at the public hearing (which is expected to be held in Webster) is that the population of Monroe County has dropped by 27,000 in the last five years. Further, residents of Monroe County may want to consider if paying for a new treatment plant to facilitate development in adjacent counties is in the best interest of the Community of Monroe.

Sierrans Participate in New York's Project WET Training

Laura Arney, Janet MacLeod, and Susan Stinson are availed themselves of the Project WET six-hour workshop at the Iroquois National Wildlife Refuge in Basom, Genesee County on August 16th.

Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) is a collection of innovative, water-related activities that are hands-on, easy to use and educational. Students learn that water is a shared resource as well as a shared responsibility. The activities are designed for teachers and non-formal educators working with young people in grades K-12 with a focus on peoples' relationship to water throughout their lives.

The New York Project WET started in 1996, and is sponsored by the state's Department of Environmental Conservation's Bureau of Environmental Education. The Great Lakes Committee of the local Sierra Club learned of this training (free) opportunity while researching educational materials related to our local waterways. We hope to not only become more knowledgeable about water ourselves, but to sponsor this kind of training in the future for other local Sierra Club members interested in learning and sharing their knowledge with others. We will provide more detailed information about the program after our training.

Book Study Group

by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

The next meeting of the Book Study Group will be at 7:00 PM, Monday, September 18, at the Winton Library, 611 Winton Road, North. We will discuss the book *Collapse, How Societies Choose to Fail Or Succeed* by Jared Diamond. This book is "compelling in its ability to relate the pandemonium of the present to the hushed agrarian sunrises of the far past," according to the NY Times. The LA Times writes: "The Icelanders..learned to adapt to living within the limits of their environment..a book to help us do the same." There are copies of this book in the library system. Open to all. Hope to see you there.

Coastal Clean-up set for September 16, 2006

by Laura Arney

The Sierra Club participates with many organizations under direction of the Water Education Collaborative for the **Annual International Coastal Clean-up**. This year the date is set for September 16, 2006 from 9 AM to noon, at Durand Eastman. A light breakfast, juice and coffee will be provided before the event and a free lunch will be hosted for the participants at noon. The clean-up activity will entail picking up litter and recording type and amount of litter. The data collected will enable educators and activists to target

problems with specific remedies. It is always amazing to see the amount of trash being hauled away from the morning's effort. If you can help, please call a team leader (listed below) to sign up (they need to gather supplies). Let them know you are with Sierra Club, and ask specifically where to meet and what to do if it's a rainy day. Bring work gloves, sun hat, sun screen, insect repellent and sturdy shoes. For further information, you can call Jamie Romero at 309-8148 or Laura Arney at 334-8548.

Clean-up Area	Team Leader	Phone
Greece: Braddock Bay Park	June Summers	585-865-6047
Hamlin: Hamlin Beach State Park	Hilary Richardson	585-395-5966
Irondequoit: Durand Eastman Bch & Pk	Jamie Romeo	585-309-8148
Irondequoit: Bay Marine Park	Laura Farra	585-271-4552
Rochester: Ontario Beach Park	Michael Parker	585-621-2461
Rochester: Genesee R./Port of Rochester	Michael Parker	585-621-2461
Rochester: Seth Green Fishing Access	Raymond Littlefield	585-428-6523
Rochester: Turning Point Park	Brian C. Slack	585-454-0190
Webster: Webster Park	Amy Crosby	585-787-1002

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>

Volunteer Database

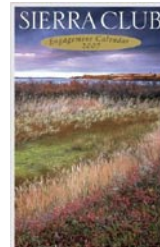
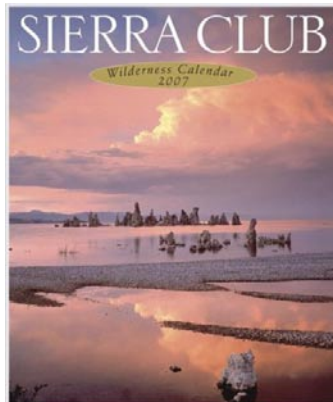
Join our Volunteer Database [http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/helping_out.htm]. You can sign up for specific projects or help on one of our Committees. Just send an E-mail to: FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com or call our Sierra Club Voice Box at 585-234-1056, or print out the online form and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

Sierra Club Outings

Date/Leader	Event	Rendezvous
September 9th Howard Camp	Tryon Village Visit the site of the first European settlement in the Rochester area, now a little-known protected urban forest. The same area was also the site of an important pre-Columbus Native American trade route.	9:30 am at First Unitarian Church parking lot
October 7th Howard Camp	Oatka Creek Park Explore the forest-hidden remains of early American gypsum mines and a mill, as well as viewing one of the premier trout streams in our region.	9:30 am at First Unitarian Church parking lot
November 11 th Howard Camp	The Wild Side of Letchworth The lesser-known east side of Letchworth park provides undeveloped wilderness, relics of an ancient and ingenious canal system, as well as trail access to the banks of the Genesee River itself.	9:30 am at First Unitarian Church parking lot

Call Howard Camp at 473-1410 for further information

Sierra Club 2007 Wilderness Wall Calendar—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



Sierra Club 2007 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and 'wire-o' binding.

ORDER FORM

SIERRA CLUB 2007 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 585-538-6463 (ext. 3) or E-mail: SierraRochTix@hotmail.com Note: Please support the work of your local club by ordering directly from us.	CALENDAR	Price	Quantity	Amount
	2007 Wilderness Calendar	\$13.99*		
	2007 Engagement Calendar	\$15.07*		
* Price includes 8% sales tax Subtotal:				
Shipping: \$3.00 per calendar*				
Total:				
*Orders of ten or more: free delivery or shipping within a 15-mile radius of downtown Rochester				
Sold to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____	Ship to: _____ _____ _____ Phone: _____			

For access to photos of calendars, and a printable order form go to: http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/buy_our_calendar.htm

CALENDAR

Sept. 9	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Tryon Village -----	meet at Unitarian Church for car pooling⁵
Sept. 14	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ¹	1000 East Ave. Apt. 300
Sept. 16	Saturday	9:00 AM	-----Coastal Clean-up (see page 4)-----	Lakeshore Blvd. @ Kings Highway
Sept. 18	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see Page 5)	Winton Library, 611 Winton Rd N.
Sept. 19	Tuesday	7:30 PM	-----Alternative Energy Committee -----	149 Dartmouth St., Apt. D ⁴
Sept. 21	Thursday	7:00 PM	General Meeting, Storm Drains (see page 1)	Brighton Town Hall Auditorium²
Sept. 26	Tuesday	7:00 PM	-----Great Lakes Committee meeting-----	Brighton Library ²
Sept. 28	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ³
Sept. 30	Saturday	5 to 9 PM	----- Fall Festival (see page 1)-----	Tay House, Cobbs Hill Park⁶
Oct. 5	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ¹	Brighton Library ²
Oct. 7	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Oatka Creek Park (see page 5) -----	meet at Unitarian Church for car pooling⁵
Oct. 15	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
Oct. 17	Tuesday	7:30 PM	-----Alternative Energy Committee -----	149 Dartmouth St., Apt. D ⁴
Oct. 24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Great Lakes Committee meeting	Brighton Library ²
Oct. 26	Thursday	7:30 PM	-----Wetlands Committee-----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ³
Nov. 11	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Wild Side of Letchworth (see page 5)	meet at Unitarian Church for car pooling⁵

¹Open to members. Call 234-1056

²2300 Elmwood Ave.

³Call Mike at 414-6511 to confirm

⁴Call Bob at 576-8144 to confirm

⁵220 Winton Rd. South

⁶see page 2 for directions to Tay House

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 585-234-1056 for Sierra Club voice mail.