



# eco-logue

Explore, enjoy  
and protect  
the planet

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 37, No. 1  
Feb. \ March 2007

## Climbing the Great Mountains

*A program on conquering the highest mountain on each of seven continents*

Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:15pm, Brighton Town Hall

Kevin Flynn, an unassuming sort of man, is just back from reaching his goal of climbing the highest peak on each of the seven continents in the world – including Mt. Everest, Mt. Denali and Mt. Vinson in the Antarctic. He will tell us about his experiences and illustrate his adventures with video clips, slides and a DVD. Kevin is one of the owners and a partner of Martino Flynn LLC in Pittsford, a firm known for excellence in creative and public relations. He is also chairperson of the Center for

Environmental Information. Beside his very active local engagements he and his wife love skiing, travel, flying, and outdoor adventures. In his first crack at conquering Mt. Everest in 2002 he reached within 2,800 feet of the summit but had to turn back. Not to be deterred, on his second try in 2004 he succeeded in reaching the 29,035 foot summit and has pictures to prove it.

To meet Kevin Flynn and see his presentation, come and see this Sierra

Club program at Brighton Town Hall, Thursday, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7:15pm. It's free and open to the public. You might also want to consider buying a copy of his new book titled Mt. Everest, Confessions of an Amateur Peak Bagger. Brighton Town Hall is at 2300 Elmwood Ave., Rochester. The main auditorium can be reached by going up the steps on the front (south side) of the building and through the front doors.

### Cleaner Air around Kodak

by Laura E. Arney,  
Clean Air and Clean Water committee

For many years the Sierra Club has joined forces with the Kandid Coalition, a group of concerned residents and activists, in calling for the Eastman Kodak Incinerator (hazardous waste burning, Building 218) to be equipped with more stringent air pollution control technology. Last November Eastman Kodak Company announced the closure of that incinerator and a nearby coal-fired power plant on the east side of their manufacturing facilities.

Regardless of the reasons for the closures, the goals that motivated Kandid Coalition have been accomplished. The group has decided to disband and spend their energy on other environmental issues. In December their bank account was closed and unspent money was divided between two other

environmental organizations, Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC), the group's fiscal sponsor headquartered in Albany, and Rochesterians against the Misuse of Pesticides (RAMP), a local organization which raises awareness of hazardous chemicals in our everyday life. Air monitoring buckets (which sampled outside air that was then sent to a laboratory for chemical analysis) have been collected to be used in other similar air quality issues.

"Goodbye!" to a major source of toxics in our local environment. The residents in Greece, Charlotte and Irondequoit are now beneficiaries of a cleaner environment. Kandid Coalition is grateful to the many supporters, active members, and citizens who work on these local air quality issues.

### Environmental Forum coming

The Sierra Club **Ninth Annual Environmental Forum** will be held on April 19, 2007 at the First Unitarian Church. Plan to come and participate in this major environmental event. There will be opportunities for organizations to have a table, time for networking with other groups, and hearing a program of interest to anyone concerned about the environment in the Rochester region. Watch for more details.

**Save the Date  
April 19, 2007**

## From the Chair



by Deb Muratore

How do we make the Sierra Club a more member participatory organization?

The Sierra Club is a volunteer organization. Maybe we do too good of a job of making it look easy, as if there were hundreds of people behind the scenes. But in reality it's usually just the 10-12 people on the ExCom. We plan and arrange informational programs and try to confront the Rochester region on behalf of our environment. To be effective, we really need more volunteer workers. As do many organizations we struggle with how to move people beyond just sending in money. Move them to take the next step to attend a meeting and/or work on one of our committees.

Is it lack of time or interest? We don't have all the answers. We're putting on programs to educate ourselves and others. We're working to reduce our impact on the earth in our own ways. Let's stop doing it in isolation. Come and join us to do it together.

I joined the Sierra Club in 1990. In 1991 I joined the ExCom as Conservation Chair. In 1998 I went back to school to finish my BA. I had to

cut back in my Sierra Club activity but I did attend programs and helped out as time permitted. In 2002 I re-joined the Excom as Treasurer. Now I have been asked to be Chair of the Group. We've split the duties to be mostly administrative with the Conservation Chair addressing conservation issues.

Over the past 16 years here are some of the things we've worked on: programs, adopt-a-highway, attended town board meetings and hearings, visited our elected officials, sponsored annual Environmental Forums, outings, beach clean-ups, book discussions, publishing and mailing the eco-logue, developed a website, and linkages with other environmental organizations.

We need and would appreciate your time and input. You could start out by helping put labels on the eco-logue, or suggesting a program or an outing, or write an article for the eco-logue, or bake something to sell at our Environmental Forum. There are several small behind-the-scene things where we could use your help.

What talent or interest do you have that you'd like to share or develop? Please call me or any one on the ExCom to discuss it. Help us make a difference to "Preserve, Protect and Enjoy the Earth." You can reach me at 385-9743 or E-mail: deb.muratore@hotmail.com

## ExCom Election Results 2007-2008

Ballots for the election of members to the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club Executive Committee have been tallied, and the results are as follows: Cecelia Crone, Hugh Mitchell, Deb Muratore, Frank Regan, Sara Rubin, and David Ruekberg have each been elected to serve a two-year term as a member of the ExCom, 2007-2008. One candidate withdrew from the election early in order to focus her energies on working in sub-committees. Ballots are available for review by request.

As stated in the By-laws, officers were then chosen by the newly elected ExCom. They are: *Chair*: Deb Muratore; *Conservation Chair*, Nancy Chalker-Tennant; *Membership*, Cecelia Crone; *Outings*, Howard Camp; *Communications*, Frank Regan; *Publications*, Ray Nelson; *Fundraising*, David Ruekberg; *Chapter Delegate*, Hugh Mitchell (*Alternate*: Cecelia Crone); *Treasurer*, David Ruekberg; *Secretary*, Dina Stein.

We currently have no candidate for *Political Chair*, a vital seat in our organization. If you would be interested in heading this important position, please contact Deb Muratore, *Chair*.



## Winter Solstice Party

Our membership party last December was a good time to chat with friends, enjoy plenty of good food, and see a display and explanation of three remarkable live raptors. Ron Walker of the *Friends with Feathers* organization brought a Short-eared Owl, (shown at right) a Barred Owl, and a Red-shouldered Hawk. He pointed out the many amazing features of these birds.



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## The Auburn Trail

by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

I was introduced to The Auburn Trail a year ago and have since walked the trail several times enjoying every season.

The Town of Victor recently received a grant (from the Transportation Enhancement Program, a state-administered federal program) to develop the Auburn Trail. The Sierra Club was approached by a coalition of environmental groups, representing current active trail users (Rochester Birding Association, Rochester Butterfly Club, Burroughs Audubon Nature Club). They felt that the proposal to widen the trail to 10 feet with a 2 to

3 foot shoulders on either side would destroy the environmental qualities of the area. The coalition recommends that the existing trail be widened to no more than 3 feet (to be compliant with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act)), while concurrently developing the area as a model for environmental education and interpretation. We recommend strategically placed interpretive signs and a kiosk to alert users of the special environmental qualities of this short section of the trail. A detailed report advocating widening to no more than 3 feet was submitted to the Town of

Victor, who has not yet made a decision on the matter.

Sierra Club executive committee voted to support the effort of the coalition to preserve this area by prudent trail development as this particular section of the trail would offer all users access to a unique natural environment, with exceptional aesthetic qualities. The preservation of this environment and its subsequent interpretative nature trail will enhance the quality of life of the region.

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## Sierra Club Study Group: Once and Future Reading

by Dave Ruekberg

Beginning last June, we introduced a study group to help acquaint members and others in the community at large with details about current environmental problems. David, Nancy, and Sara wanted both to increase our understanding of these issues, and to enable us to develop responsible solutions. Below are reviews of some of our readings, which we have found provocative, disturbing, and certainly engaging. We hope more members will join us in our quest for knowledge and its transformation into action.

Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble. We began with Lester Brown's comprehensive and very readable exposé of issues confronting the planet. Considering the amount of technical data Brown shares, the book is very readable. You will know just from reading the Preface whether or not this book is for you. Right off the bat he presents distressing forecasts about the effect China's burgeoning economy may have on the environment if things continue as they have. By the same token, projections such as "using cheap

wind-generated electricity to recharge [automobile] batteries during off-peak hours costs the equivalent of 50¢-a-gallon gasoline!" offers reasons for hope. Two of our most faithful members gave copies of this book as presents to friends, families, and colleagues in an effort to spread the word!

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed. Jared Diamond, the author of *Guns, Germs and Steel*, takes a comprehensive view of civilizations from Easter Islanders to our own in an effort to suggest what makes the difference between a civilization in which "the rich are merely the last to die" to one in which society makes sacrifices that benefit everyone, such as in 16<sup>th</sup> Century Japan. On the long side, this book is organized in a way that allows for "dipping" into it at any point to find vital perspectives that offer us the long view on our current dilemma. (Owing to its length, we read this in two months.)

The Meaning of the Twenty-First Century. We found James Martin's analyses and projections of the ability of technology to rescue our civilization

from its current dangers both provocative and, at times, simplistic – or even frightening! Martin is the "information age guru" who wrote *The Wired Generation*. Perhaps riding on his laurels, Martin makes a wide range of predictions about the coming "canyon" in 2050, and how we can hope to survive it, if we can.

For February, we decided that we wanted some good news, so we have chosen Bill McKibben's *Hope, Human and Wild*. McKibben is the author of *The End of Nature*, which was surely sobering (and fairly ignored) news about global warming back in 1990. Among his books about the realities of harm done to the environment, this one is "about healing the land as well as our souls" (Terry Tempest Williams). Although this book is out of print, copies are available in the public library, and from your favorite used bookseller (including Amazon and Abebooks).

Please join us at 7 pm on Monday, February 12, at the Friends' Meeting House, 84 Scio St, Rochester. For details, please visit the Sierra Club website, or email [SierraRochTix@hotmail.com](mailto:SierraRochTix@hotmail.com).



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## CALENDAR

<b>Feb. 8</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>General Meeting, Climbing Great Mountains(see page 1)</b>	<b>Brighton Town Hall Auditorium<sup>2</sup></b>
Feb. 12	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	Friends Meeting House <sup>6</sup>
Feb. 15	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>3</sup>
Feb. 20	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Alternative Energy Committee	6 Sibley Place, (basement office) <sup>4</sup>
Feb. 22	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup>	Rochester Public Library <sup>5</sup>
Feb. 27	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Great Lakes Committee meeting	Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>
Mar. 11	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
Mar. 12	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	Friends Meeting House <sup>6</sup>
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<sup>1</sup>Open to members. Call 234-1056

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

<sup>3</sup>Call Mike at 414-6511 to confirm

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

<sup>5</sup>115 South Ave., (west side); to confirm call 234-1056

<sup>6</sup>84 Scio St. Confirm at SierraRochTix@hotmail.com

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.