

NINTH ANNUAL
Environmental Forum

Hemlock/Canadice: the Future of Our 'Little' Lakes

6:00pm– 9:30pm, Thursday, April 19th

First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Rd, Rochester, N.Y.

[An event jointly sponsored by the First Unitarian Church Environmental Committee]

The fate of over 7,200 acres of pristine semi-wilderness Finger Lakes will be decided this year. Sierra Club and most other conservation and environmental groups in the region are vitally concerned about the preservation of Hemlock & Canadice Lakes including the Upland Watershed owned by the City for over 125 years. A new water sharing agreement between the Monroe County Water Authority and the City is now being negotiated behind closed doors. These discussions include the possibility of selling Hemlock & Canadice to the Authority and/or (as reported in the Democrat & Chronicle) possible commercial sales of Hemlock lands by the City.

There are major issues at stake in these secret negotiations. For example: will properties the City has maintained in a pristine condition for over 125 years be developed for private use? Will the public have any in-pu-t, information or voice in the decision? What role will New York State play? Is the Spitzer administration willing to seriously consider working with the City and local governments for preservation of

the land? Will the City continue to receive the pure Hemlock reservoir waters or will they be used for local development? What will happen to the two nesting pairs of bald eagles who inhabit the Hemlock Lake shores?

At the Ninth Annual Environmental Forum we will hear from some of the agencies who may be central to the future of the Lakes. **Andy Beers**, the

new Executive Deputy Commissioner for New York State Office of Parks, will give some insight into a possible State role for these Finger Lakes. **Jim Howe**, Executive Director of the Central & Western New York Nature Conservancy will discuss the operations of this land preservation group and possible roles the Conservancy may play in the Hemlock decision. We have also invited

Rochester Mayor Duffy to speak. The Mayor has informed us he has other commitments but we expect the City will send a representative.

As in the past, over 30 government and conservation organizations will have table displays. Starting at 6:00pm there will be over an hour to network and learn the latest in

conservation efforts for the region. The Forum, including a Q & A session, will be held from 7:15pm to 9:30pm. For more information go to: http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/9th_environmental_forum.htm

Come to this Forum to show your concern for the preservation of Hemlock/Canadice in an unspoiled, accessible, natural condition. This is a treasure we can not lose.



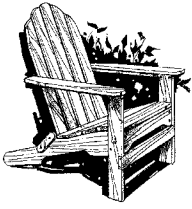
Hemlock Lake, from south end

Schedule

5:00 - 6:00 Groups set up displays
6:00 - 7:15 Doors open for networking & touring displays
7:15 - 9:30 Forum program and Q & A

From the Chair

by Deb Muratore



Do you remember your first?

The first Earth Day celebration

was started by John McConnell March 21, 1970, in San Francisco, the city of St Francis, patron saint of ecology. McConnell's Earth Day Resolution states, "It's the equal responsibility of each person to preserve and improve the Earth and the quality of life." The Vernal Equinox was chosen because it is "the moment when night and day are equal throughout the Earth – reminding us of Earth's beautiful systems of balance which humanity has partially upset and must restore.... Earth filled with pain and suffering, capable of life, beauty and love, is being destroyed by ignorance, greed and waste." To counteract this:

"Human's role is to respect and protect Earth's amazing web of life, its soil, water, air, plants and living creatures, to act as trustees of our portion of our planet.

"We are now aware that one fragile planet is our home, the home of one human family. Now we have a chance to see in our diversity a unity which will enable us to fairly adjust our differences with new solutions. In all decisions we must now consider how they affect people and planet – locally and globally. Seeing the whole picture will help us make the right choices. Earth is our inheritance – our responsibility."

The importance of Earth Day was that it started with one person saying, "I can pick up this trash and leave this place better than I found it." Now each of us needs to take the next step and say, "I'm going conserve energy and reduce waste."

My first Sierra Club meeting was 11/16/88. Its theme was "Reduce, Reuse

and Recycle." My first Earth Day Fair was on 4/22/90 at Monroe Community College.

I'm not sure when Earth Day moved from 3/21 to 4/22 – but John Muir (founder of the Sierra Club) was born on 4/21/1838.

Global Warming is a warning to all of us to play a part in reducing our footprint on the earth. Here are some things each of us can do: replace regular light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL); turn your thermostat down by two degrees; clean or replace furnace filters; use less hot water; turn off or unplug electronic devices when not in use; plant a tree; buy locally grown and produced food; buy fresh instead of frozen food; buy organic food; avoid heavily packaged products; eat less meat.

Please join us as we celebrate Earth Day at our Ninth Annual Environmental Forum on April 19, at the First Unitarian Church.

Sierra Club Outings - Spring, 2007

Spring Waterfall Outing Grimes Glen

Saturday, April 21



Grimes Glen, near Naples, is a popular creek walk. The trail runs along the sides of the creek in segments, interrupted by the cliffs. Bring shoes suitable for wading through one-foot deep water (in spots). It's a short hike, 1.2 miles round trip. Our leader is Howard Camp. Meet at 9:30am, at the First Unitarian Church parking lot, 220 South Winton Road, Rochester.

Canadice Lake Overview

Saturday, May 12

Hugh Mitchell will lead us on this beautiful four-mile trek along the shore of Canadice Lake in its wilderness setting. The trip will offer an historical perspective of this important source of Rochester's drinking water. We will also gain an understanding of the very current threat to the watershed as the City of Rochester considers opening the area to development. Meet at 9:30am at the First Unitarian Church parking lot, 220 South Winton Road, Rochester.

The Wild Side of Letchworth

Saturday, June 16

This trip will visit the lesser-known east side of Letchworth State Park. We'll be traveling down a part of the southern end of the park, offering numerous spectacular waterfall views. It will be a 2 to 3 mile hike with a few difficult stretches. Howard Camp will be our leader. We will meet at 9:30am at the First Unitarian Church parking lot, 220 South Winton Road, Rochester.

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.

Global Warming

by Bob Siegel

This has certainly been an interesting winter for our climate. Here in Rochester, it started out with exceptionally mild weather. People were delighted to be walking around in shirtsleeves in early January, while at the same time trying to ignore a nagging sense of disquiet reminding them of what Al Gore's film had so recently and so successfully pointed out about the impact of our contemporary machinery on the greater machinery that makes our planet inhabitable. Officially, this "warm spell" was attributed to El Nino. But as Tim Flannery points out in The Weather Makers, El Nino cycles have been getting longer and warmer over the past thirty years due to unprecedented warming in the Pacific Ocean, a direct result of the greenhouse effect. Last year was, in fact, the warmest American year on record. The recent warm spell was a good time for reflection, even as farmers worried whether it would ever freeze hard enough to kill off last year's insects.

The farmers' wish was granted. The big chill came along bringing tons of snow and sub-zero temperatures. And just like when gas prices fell, people immediately forgot about the larger issue, even as the skeptics predictably re-emerged from the woodwork.

Fortunately, an increasing number of

people in high places are now focused on the longer view. The overwhelming physical data alone could no longer be ignored. The devastating storms, floods, and droughts have been so severe that some places, from Sudan to Southwestern Australia will never be the same. The American Meteorological Society, a long time holdout for doubting Thomases, finally issued a statement that "human activities resulting in increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases . . . , have become a major agent of climate change." This was just about the same time that the Union of Concerned Scientists released a paper exposing a massive public disinformation campaign. Their study, now known as The Exxon Report, reveals how certain oil companies pursued a strategy nearly identical to the strategy used by the tobacco industry regarding the link between cigarettes and lung cancer, to spread doubt about the impact of fossil fuels on global warming.

Just a few days later, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report was released, consolidating evidence from climate scientists around the world, stating that "warming of the climate system is now unequivocal, as is now evident

from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice and rising global average sea level." The document was signed by 110 countries, including some whose economies depend on the world's continued use of fossil fuel. Yet the report reads, "Global atmospheric concentrations of (carbon dioxide) have increased markedly as a result of human activities since 1750 and now far exceed pre-industrial values." The confidence level is now greater than 90 percent.

For those of us concerned about the planet, this high-level acceptance of the current reality can only be seen as positive. Yet the reality itself is rather bleak. Well-timed good news on that front came from the American Solar Energy Society. Their report, entitled Tackling Climate Change in the US, claims that "Energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies have the potential to provide most, if not all, of the U.S. carbon emissions reductions that will be needed to help limit the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide to 450 to 500 ppm by the year 2030." This, of course, assumes prompt and decisive action by all parties, not exactly a given.

Book Study Group

We will be discussing the second half of Michael Pollan's book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, by Michael Pollan at our April 9 meeting. More details about this book, meeting place, and future readings are available on our website, by leaving a message for David on our voice mail, or by joining the Study Group email list at <http://lists.restory.net/listinfo.cgi/sierrastudygroup-restory.net>.

This event is free and open to the public.

Mountain Top Removal

On Saturday, April 14, 7pm, Julia Bonds, 2003 Goldman Environmental Prize winner, will speak on Mountain Top Removal (MTR) and the Struggle for Coalfield Justice in Central Appalachia. MTR is a coal-mining practice that destroys beautiful mountain scenery and devastates some of the most bio-diverse forestland left in N. America. Accompanying Julia's talk will be the MTR-related documentary, "Black Diamonds." Location: Corpus Christi, 880 E. Main St. The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club is a co-sponsor of this event.

Calendars: Thanks!

Thanks to all the members who helped support your local Group by purchasing wall and desk calendars directly from us. Calendar sales is one of our most important revenue sources. At the same time, the outstanding photographs offer you a year-long reminder of the beauty the Sierra Club works to preserve.

Special thanks to members Terry Platt, Bruce Popper, and Ira Srole (our Abundance Co-op connection) for their generous help in distributing a significant portion of sales. 2008 calendars go on sale in September, so – you know – *mark your calendars!*



ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB
 P.O. Box 39516
 ROCHESTER, NY 14604-9516

Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 Permit No. 39
 Rochester, NY

CALENDAR

April 3	Tuesday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting ¹ -----	1000 East Ave. Apt.300
April 9	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	
April 14	Saturday	7:00 PM	----- Mountain Top Removal program (see page 3) -----	----- Corpus Christi Church ⁷
April 17	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Alternative Energy Committee	Saint Thomas Episcopal Church ⁴
April 19	Thursday	6:00 PM	----- Environmental Forum(see page 1) -----	----- First Unitarian Church⁵
April 21	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Spring Waterfall	meet at First Unitarian Church parking lot⁵
April 24	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Great Lakes Committee meeting -----	----- Brighton Library ²
April 24	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ³
May 1	Tuesday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting ¹ -----	----- 1000 East Ave. Apt.300
May 6	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
May 12	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Canadice Lake -----	meet at First Unitarian Church parking lot⁵
May 14	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Study Group (see page 3)	
May 15	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Alternative Energy Committee -----	----- Saint Thomas Episcopal Church ⁴
May 20	Sunday	7:00 PM	eco-logue mailing ⁶	
May 22	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Great Lakes Committee meeting -----	----- Brighton Library ²
May 22	Thursday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ³

¹Open to members. Call 234-1056

²2300 Elmwood Ave.

³Call Mike at 414-6511 for date, place & time

⁴2000 Highland Ave. (at corner of S. Winton Rd.)

⁵220 Winton Rd. South

⁶Call Ray Nelson 342-2734 for place and time

⁷880 East Main St., Rochester

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.