

## ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 38, No. 1  
Feb/March 2008

### The Return of the Bald Eagle to Irondequoit Bay

February 27, 2008, 7 p.m.

Irondequoit Town Hall, 1280 Titus Ave., Rochester

Friends of Irondequoit Bay and the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club are pleased to co-sponsor a presentation of *The Return of the Bald Eagle to Irondequoit Bay*. Bald Eagle expert Mike Allen, Sr. Wildlife Technician at the Department of Environmental Conservation, will give a dynamic presentation about the return of this majestic bird, from near extinction. A captive Bald Eagle, named Liberty, will make a guest appearance. You will have an opportunity for an up close and personal experience with this imposing and symbolic bird. Mr. Allen's presentation will be

about the successes and setbacks the NYSDEC has experienced reviving the bald eagle population in New York State, from just one pair of nesting Bald Eagles in 1960, to a much healthier



population of more than 80 nesting pairs. The focus of this discussion will be the pair of Bald Eagles located on Irondequoit Bay and the policies and procedures that the NYSDEC uses to protect of the birds and their sensitive nesting site.

Date:

February 27, 2008, 7 p.m.

Location:

Irondequoit Town Hall  
1280 Titus Ave.  
Rochester, NY 14617

This event is free and open to the public.

No registration required.

### Saved by the Sun

a global warming film

Thursday, March 20, 7:00 PM, Brighton Town Hall

The Rochester Sierra Club's Energy and Global Warming committee is happy to present the next film in our ongoing film series on global warming.

*Saved by the Sun*, a 55 minute film that was produced for PBS Nova. It is a fairly optimistic view of what is not only possible but what is actually being done to move away from fossil fuels in leading countries like Germany. It also describes some of the research taking

place in this country, with particular emphasis on solar energy. One of the big reasons for Germany's success in this area is the willingness of both politicians and ordinary citizens to take a serious, long term look at their future energy needs, focusing particularly on alternatives to coal produced power. With this in mind, we thought *Saved by the Sun* would be an appropriate film to show in this election year.

We also hope to have some local folks with solar and energy efficiency experience on hand to answer any how-to questions on how to make your home more planet friendly.

The film will be shown at 7PM on March 20th at the Brighton Town Hall in the auditorium. The program is free and open to the public.

### Environmental Forum To Tackle Transportation Alternatives

The Sierra Club is taking a bold step. Our annual Environmental Forum to be held at the First Unitarian Church, April 17, 2008, is being devoted entirely to *Transportation Alternatives for Rochester-A Vision for the Future*. Prominent figures in our community, who are currently involved in public planning, are being invited to shed light on future transportation plans and to share their vision for energy efficiency and sustainability. As in the past, we are teaming up with the Environmental Committee of the First Unitarian Church. This year the whole church community has decided to make transportation their theme of the month.

**Forum** (continued on page 3: )

**If you haven't already done it  
DO IT NOW**

Sign up for our e-mail list. It comes out weekly and it's full of news and events for our group.  
[http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/e-mail\\_list.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/e-mail_list.htm)

## From the Chair



by Deb Muratore  
In Memory of  
Ginny Tyler

Ginny Tyler, a long time member and friend of the Sierra Club, passed away on December 20, 2007. She was a lifetime social justice/environmental advocate who lived her beliefs and also believed in lifelong learning. She passed her gifts along to anyone whose life she touched. She contributed to the Sierra Club in many ways. She contributed financially, as a volunteer, and by graciously opening her home to many Sierra Club Ex-Com meetings and Winter Solstice parties. She also served as our membership chair.

Her family has requested that contributions in her memory be made to the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club. Checks can be sent to: Sierra Club, PO Box 39516, Rochester, NY 14604.

We have already received numerous contributions from many of Ginny's friends. This money will help to preserve Rochester's green spaces. But more than the monetary value, Ginny's family appreciates the thought behind these gifts. We know that Ginny would appreciate them.

I will always remember that she smiled with her face and with her heart.

God Speed to you Ginny. You will be sadly missed.

The Executive Committee of The Rochester Regional Group of The Sierra Club: Bob, Cecelia, Deb, Dina, Frank, Hugh, Janet, Laura, Nancy, Ray & Sara

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.

## Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Continues!

by Wayne Howard  
Great Lakes Committee Chair

As reported in the June/July/Aug. 2007 Eco-logue, the Great Lakes Committee has been actively engaged with public outreach and the national Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives campaign, advocating for Great Lakes legislation ([www.HealthyLakes.org](http://www.HealthyLakes.org)). At the end of February, members of our committee will be attending Great Lakes Week at Washington DC. We have also been leading discussions throughout the community on the topic of water privatization, centered on the movie "Thirst!"

Our program continues this year with several presentations already on our schedule. Please join us for one of them. You're also encouraged to attend our Great Lakes Committee meetings, as listed on the back page of the eco-logue.

If you know of other groups that would like to host a viewing/discussion of "Thirst!" please contact me at (585) 359-0782.

Our current schedule:  
Friday February 8th, Great Lakes Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives for

Burroughs Audubon meeting, 7:30 PM, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 800 E Ridge Road, Irondequoit.

Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup>, at a meeting of Henrietta Neighbors United, viewing of the movie *Thirst!* and follow-up discussion on water privatization. The meeting starts at 1:00 PM at the Henrietta Public Library, 455 Calkins Road, Henrietta.

Friday March 7<sup>th</sup>, at a meeting of Our Lady of Mount Carmel group, we will view the movie *Thirst!* and discuss Water for Sudan and water privatization. Location and time TBA.

Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> program on *Great Lakes - Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives* for the Genesee Valley Audubon meeting, 7:00 PM, Brighton Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Avenue, Brighton.

Please visit our website for up-to-date information. Locations, dates and times are subject to change. [http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/great\\_lakes.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/great_lakes.htm)

## Great Lakes Education Subcommittee

by Susan Stinson

Starting off the year, the education subcommittee of the GLC (Great Lakes Committee) designed and set up a display on Great Lakes Concerns at the Henrietta Public Library. It was exhibited for the entire month of January. Areas of concern addressed were: 1) the water cycle, 2) the amount of fresh water available in the world, 3) three common local, invasive water species, and 4) two recommendations for home



products that reduce phosphorus in the water supply. The GLC education subcommittee's goal is to bring water conservation and protection issues to the attention of the public. We hope to install the exhibit in other locations around the region during 2008. To view the display schedule

go to <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/display.htm>. Send any comments/suggestions for additions to [ssinson@mac.com](mailto:ssinson@mac.com).

## The Next Great Wave of Deforestation?

by Peter Debes

I have been thinking about the trends that are occurring in our country and projecting what these might mean for the future. I found some disquieting predictions, if my thinking is correct. We have already learned that corn prices have risen dramatically in the past year due to the promotion of corn as a base for ethanol production. Let's suppose that subsidies for growing crops for ethanol continue, or oil prices rise enough so that it continues to be more profitable for people to convert cropland into growing fuel crops; more profitable, that is, than growing food or letting the land lie fallow. The result could mean a rapid conversion of old fields or early succession forests to cropland on a wide scale. In many areas of the state, competition with large farm operations forced many small farmers out of business and their lands lay unused and began undergoing succession. With prices for corn (and through competition) food rising, it will be profitable for even small farm operations to bring these lands back into cultivation reducing greatly habitat that had regenerated for wildlife.

At the same time, let us suppose that fuel prices continue to escalate and many people with wood lots, begin relying on wood stoves again to cut their home heating bills. Many people think this would not be so bad since they would not strip a wood lot, just take

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### Forum (continued from page 1)

This will also be a day for individuals, groups, and organizations to share their ideas. Topics will encompass all types of transportation from air to foot and will include how our area can redesign and retool. The forum will help raise awareness of what is being done in our community to open new horizons and build the foundation for greater cooperation in addressing global warming.

down the large, mature or dead trees. It is well established that this can lead to a reduction in diversity in an ecosystem since large, mature trees are necessary for a number of species to survive and dead trees provide essential places for cavity nesting wildlife which includes many species of birds. These trends, if allowed to continue could accelerate the decline of endangered species all over the nation, and in the world.

So what can be done? Most Americans are eager to help and we are a resourceful people. Given the challenge, we can take many steps now to conserve energy. And this may have to be our leading objective for all those working to preserve what is left of our planet's diversity. Providing many different kinds of incentives would accelerate the process. It would be necessary to stop subsidies for ethanol from corn and in fact, limit all programs that promote the production of crops for biofuel.

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### Thank You, Laura

Occasionally a quiet, highly effective volunteer comes to a not-for-profit group like the Sierra Club and stays for many years. Laura Arney, who recently completed her 6th year on the Ex-Com, is such a member. Laura helped to guide the Group through many activities including heading the Air & Water Committee, leading Genesee River canoe trips, presenting educational programs, and writing articles for the eco-logue. Despite her unassuming manner Laura is a self-starter who was willing to tackle leadership, often in areas that were not very comfortable for her such as the Kandid Coalition efforts to clean up Kodak air pollution. One of Laura's most lasting and original creations is the laminated, two-sided Genesee River canoe map which she researched, designed and had printed for sale by the Group. We will miss Laura on our Ex-Com but look forward to her continued membership as one of our brightest and most creative volunteers.

## Book Study Group

by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

Break Through, From the Death of Environmentalism to the Politics of Possibility by Ted Nordhaus and Michael Shellenberger published by Houghton Mifflin

Review by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

The Sierra Book Study Group chose to read *Break Through*, because the authors, Nordhaus and Shellenberger, even though they have both been a part of the conservation movement, are critical of these groups, including Sierra Club.

Using post modern philosophy, Nordhaus and Shellenberger build their thesis for changing the way we act on global issues. They propose alternative ways of perceiving earth and the responsibilities of the human species, "as we have survived and propagated ourselves all over the the planet." The authors suggest those of us, who already have a high standard of living, instead of being isolationist, need to develop new ways of sharing and using the market place to make it possible for emerging nations to grow and prosper, encouraging all people to strive for a life, which allows them time for individual development.

Therefore, we will all be nurturing new ideas and inventing different ways of working together on earth.

*Break Through* speaks of a change in rhetoric on how we can have the confidence and "shared hope" to direct our future on earth.

For additional reading, go to: [www.sierraclub.org/carlpope/2007](http://www.sierraclub.org/carlpope/2007)

The Sierra Club book study group has lively discussions. Everyone is welcome to join us.

The next meeting is Feb.11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., at the Friends Meeting House, corner of Scio and Charlotte Streets. We will study *Deep Economy* by Bill McKibben



ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP  
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB  
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 ROCHESTER, NY 14604-9516

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## CALENDAR

|                 |                  |                |  |  |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|--|--|
| Feb. 5          | Tuesday          | 6:45 PM        | ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup>                       | Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>              |
| <b>Feb. 11</b>  | <b>Monday</b>    | <b>7:00 PM</b> | <b>Book Study Group</b>                          | <b>Friends Meeting House<sup>4</sup></b>   |
| Feb. 19         | Tuesday          | 7:30 PM        | Wetlands Committee                               | 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>5</sup>    |
| Feb. 26         | Tuesday          | 7:00 PM        | Global Warming and Energy Committee              | Saint Thomas Episcopal Church <sup>3</sup> |
| Feb. 26         | Tuesday          | 7:00 PM        | Great Lakes Committee                            | Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>              |
| <b>Feb. 27</b>  | <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>7:00 PM</b> | <b>The Return of the Bald Eagle (see page 1)</b> | <b>Irondequoit Town Hall<sup>6</sup></b>   |
| March 4         | Tuesday          | 6:45 PM        | ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup>                       | Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>              |
| March 16        | Sunday           |                | eco-logue deadline                               |  |
| March 18        | Tuesday          | 7:00 PM        | Global Warming and Energy Committee              | Saint Thomas Episcopal Church <sup>3</sup> |
| March 18        | Tuesday          | 7:30 PM        | Wetlands Committee                               | call Cristine at 586-6085 for location     |
| March 18        | Tuesday          | 7:30 PM        | Great Lakes Committee                            | Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>              |
| <b>March 20</b> | <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>7:00 PM</b> | <b>Saved by the Sun (see page 3)</b>             | <b>Brighton Town Hall<sup>2</sup></b>      |

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

<sup>3</sup>2000 Highland Ave. (at corner of S. Winton Rd.)

<sup>5</sup>Call Sara at 442-6890 for information

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

<sup>4</sup>84 Scio Street

<sup>6</sup>1280 Titus Ave. Irondequoit

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.