

A Cordial Invitation to View 'Black Diamonds'

by Paul Ciavarrri

You are cordially invited to a special Sierra Club event on Thursday, June 19th, at 7pm, in the Brighton Town Hall auditorium (the building next to the library; 2300 Elmwood Avenue). Admission is free and open to the public. Light refreshments to be served.

We are hosting a Rochester presentation of the film, "Black Diamonds: Mountaintop Removal and the Fight for Coalfield Justice," a vibrant film of 72 minutes set in the picturesque mountains of southern West Virginia.

Following the film will be an in-depth discussion with a knowledgeable, local panelist (to be announced) about both coal energy and Rochester's connection to mountaintop removal.

Discussion will also include what we, as individuals, can do to help save and protect the remaining mountain wilderness in Appalachia.

"Black Diamonds" has received a number of awards since its release in 2006 and is still the definitive documentary about mountaintop

removal (directed by a native daughter of Appalachia, Catherine Pancake). In fact, one of the activists featured in the film, Judy Bonds, visited us last year and showed the film for the first time locally. She spoke passionately of the need for assistance in ending this devastating mining practice – a call for assistance that is just as urgent today.

We hope you can join us on June 19th at 7pm. Please bring a friend – even if he/she is not a Sierra member. We look forward to seeing you there.



tree planting

You may remember that in the April/May eco-logue Deb Muratore wrote about a new annual event consisting of a tree planting. Well, The first tree planting on Saturday, May 17 went very well, and we now can expect a reduction in our carbon imprint from them. The City of Rochester - Environmental Services Department - Forestry, co-sponsored the event with the Sierra Club. The City supplied the three trees and all the knowledge about how to plant them. They are Zelkova trees, very nice looking. They are in the very spacious backyard of the Sojourner's House on Millbank Street in the southwest side of the city.

Workers from the City forestry department, volunteers from the Sojourner's House, and Deb Muratore pitched right in to plant the trees. Our sincerest thanks to all of them.

From the Chair



by Deb Muratore

I grew up in the 60's and my dad always drove a 2-door convertible. How could you NOT

LOVE driving!?!? The second car I bought was a new 1975 MG Midget 4-cylinder stick shift convertible.

Most of my vehicles have been 4-cylinder. For the past several years I've tried to not drive one day a month. I rarely go some place and return. I always plan my trips around town in a circle - making several stops. I work out three times a week after work, go to

my mom's for dinner, go to Sierra Club meetings or meet friends for dinner - all of which makes it difficult to car-pool.

But I decided it's time to take a new step. So once a week I've been car-pooling with Rick, who I work with. He normally starts at 7am and I start at 8am. He's changed his hours for one day a week, for which I am totally grateful - not being a morning person!

Reviewing my life from 1982 to the present, I had car-pooled with a fellow worker and in 2004 I car-pooled with another fellow worker. In 1990 I took the bus when I worked down town. It's been far and few between when I've lived near some one I worked with. But I did make the effort to car-pool when I could.

I encourage you to take some time to think about your gas consumption and come up with some creative ideas to drive less, car-pool, combine errands and trips, buy a more energy efficient or alternative energy vehicle, use public transportation, ride a motorcycle, bike or walk.

I'm sure we've all taken first steps to become more environmentally conscience. Now it's time to be even more creative and take some additional steps and encourage others to become more environmentally conscience. Yesterday was Mother's Day. Let's include Mother Earth, to be kind to by changing our driving habits, reducing our carbon footprint and helping to slow global warming.

Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Continues

by the Great Lakes Committee

The Great Lakes Committee continues to be actively engaged with public outreach and the national "Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives" campaign, advocating for Great Lakes legislation. Our member, Holly Wheeler, was interviewed by Katrina Irwin for this week's "Go Green" segment regarding bottled water. This was broadcast on TV Thursday, 3/6/08. The "Go Green" segment can be found online at <http://rochesterhomepage.net/content/fulltext/?cid=14803>.

GLC members participated in the Great Lakes Day on Capitol Hill in Washington (organized by the Healing Our Waters coalition), February 27-28. We lobbied to pass legislation to protect the Great Lakes, including legislation that will: (1) stop aquatic invasive species destroying the Great Lakes (Legislation H.R. 2830 and S.1578); (2) reauthorize and increase funding (\$54 M to \$150M) for the Great Lakes Legacy Act, H.R. 1350 and S. 2994; (3) fund Great Lakes strategic projects; protect the Great Lakes by passing the Clean Water Restoration Act H.R. 2412 / S. 1870; (4) restore Clean Water Revolving funding to

update sewage systems and improve coastal health; and (5) promote "Plan B+" as the appropriate water level management plan for Lake Ontario and the St Lawrence River. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2830) by a vote of 395 to 7 on April 24th, 2008. You can do your part to protect the Great Lakes by visiting www.HealthyLakes.org and clicking on "Take Action".

There is a "Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Tour" planned, beginning June 4th in Buffalo, NY, led by the "Earth Voyager," a Formula 60 trimaran, to engage people who love the lakes and highlight the urgent need and the remarkable economic, social, and environmental benefits of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. (www.healthylakestour.org)

After visiting 15 locations in the Great Lakes the final stop will be Rochester, NY September 5/6/7. At each port "Earth Voyager" will be accompanied by a flotilla of local boats creating a grand visual celebration of the Lakes. Plans include reception, press conference, and Environmental

expo. etc. Additional information will be provided on our web site: http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/great_lakes.htm

Currently, we are preparing our position statements for the International Joint Commission's (IJC's) Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River proposed new water level/flow regulations (Plan 2007).

Please join us at our May 27th committee meeting as we prepare our final statements. Then help us advocate for "Plan B+" at the public meeting on June 11, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. It will be held at the Town of Greece Community and Senior Center, 3 Vince Tofany Boulevard. This new order will have a dramatic effect on wetlands, wildlife and water quality.

Please see the last page of this eco-logue for our meeting schedule.

Eco-logue is published five times a year by the Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club, PO Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610-9998. Subscriptions are free to Sierra Club members and available at \$10 per year to others.

Cobb's Hill Forest - Study Project Announced

by Peter Debes

Perhaps you have noticed that the forest in Washington Grove at Cobb's Hill Park is changing. The woods are a favorite place for people to exercise and walk their dogs, and as a result the trails have gradually been widening and in some places, suffering from extensive erosion. The constant accumulation of dog feces may also be affecting the health of the trees.

The woods contain a large number of majestic old oaks and large specimens of other trees natural to the area, which makes it especially enchanting to walk through. Now, large old trees seem to be dying and falling, one showing at

least 180 years old. This is a natural occurrence in forests, but here, there are troubling signs that, without human intervention, the forest will look much different in the near future. The problem is that many of the young seedlings and saplings coming up under the older trees are of the invasive Norway maple. This very competitive tree produces huge numbers of seeds and the seedlings grow very rapidly, shading and out-competing the native trees. The result, if unchecked, will be a forest with few oaks and a majority of Norway maples.

The Sierra Club is initiating a project

with the City of Rochester to study the forest, and make recommendations for steps that might be taken to help maintain the forest in a more natural condition. If successful, future generations will be able to continue to enjoy the forest as it appears today. We are seeking the participation of other interested groups and individuals in this project. Local residents, neighborhood associations, and the Department of Environmental Science at SUNY Brockport have all expressed interest. Anyone seeking more information may contact Peter Debes at 585-271-4796.

Sierra Club Outings - Summer, 2008

All outing groups will gather at the parking lot of the Unitarian Church at 220 South Winton Road in Rochester, unless stated otherwise in the outing description. Walks range from 1½ to 4 miles. None are difficult.



Corbett's Glen Nature Park

May 31 at 10:00 AM

A beautiful valley very close to Rochester, often overlooked even by near neighbors, with waterfall, rapids and history. Led by Jean Baric, we will meet at 10:00 am at the trailhead (well marked) on the south side of Penfield Rd., located a few hundred yards east of I490.

Keuka Lake Outlet Trail

June 7 at 9:30 AM

Alive with much history, abandoned buildings and waterfalls, this trail follows an historical canal and railroad from Penn Yan to Seneca Lake.

A New Blog

by Frank Regan

Our group now has a blog: <http://rochestersierrclubblog.blogspot.com/> -- The purpose of this blog is to provide information and enhance both communication and participation of Sierra Club members and concerned

citizens in preserving our environment. Surf over and makes some comments or begin a dialogue about a new environmental issue.

What is a blog? <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/blogs/>

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

READER INTEREST SURVEY
by Linda Isaacson Fedele, Membership Chair

In an effort to better connect with our members and non-members in the community, we'd like to learn about your concerns and interests. Please take the time to answer the following questions, and return this form. If you'd rather keep your copy of the Ecologue intact, you can make a copy of this survey, or simply jot your answers down on a piece of paper. The first 20 of you to respond will receive a small token of appreciation, if you include your name and address (optional). THANK YOU!

Which of the following environmental issues or activities concern or interest you? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> air quality | <input type="checkbox"/> agricultural issues | <input type="checkbox"/> environmental legislation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> energy | <input type="checkbox"/> mercury / other toxins | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> wildlife & habitat preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> waste / landfills | <input type="checkbox"/> sprawl and land use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water quality | <input type="checkbox"/> factory farms | <input type="checkbox"/> population growth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water scarcity | <input type="checkbox"/> global warming | <input type="checkbox"/> mountain top removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> forest preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> wetland preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> food issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> hunting and/or fishing | <input type="checkbox"/> Great Lakes preservation | <input type="checkbox"/> peak oil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bird watching | <input type="checkbox"/> animal rights | <input type="checkbox"/> solar and/or wind power |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | |

And, which of the following activities would you be most likely to participate with the Sierra Club? (Mark all that apply.)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> informational meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> book discussion group | <input type="checkbox"/> pizza / mailing party |
| <input type="checkbox"/> informal meeting at someone's home | <input type="checkbox"/> informal meeting at restaurant/bar | <input type="checkbox"/> election / campaign activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> office work | <input type="checkbox"/> public lecture or film | <input type="checkbox"/> phone banking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> conservation committee meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> writing a letter to the Editor | <input type="checkbox"/> family-friendly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> informal meeting at a café | <input type="checkbox"/> helping at an event | <input type="checkbox"/> social gathering at a bar or pub |
| <input type="checkbox"/> staffing info table | <input type="checkbox"/> signing a petition | <input type="checkbox"/> street or beach cleanup |
| <input type="checkbox"/> outing such as an easy hike | <input type="checkbox"/> public awareness rally | <input type="checkbox"/> media / communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> writing / calling legislators | <input type="checkbox"/> tree planting | <input type="checkbox"/> lobbying elected officials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ | | |

Finally, this info is optional:

Name: _____ Are you a Sierra Club member? Yes/No (circle one)

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Do not call me

E-mail: _____ Do not e-mail me

Please return this form to: Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 10518,
Rochester, NY 14610-9998

Volunteer "THANK YOU"s and OPPORTUNITIES

by Linda Isaacson Fedele, Membership Chair

In the past few months we've spearheaded and participated in several public events, and we couldn't have done it without help from our volunteers. Some of you are pillars upon which our group's successes rest, having invested many hours over the years. And others have recently stepped up for the first time to help with one-time events. No matter the size of the job you've done for us, please know how much you are appreciated.

Thanks to those of you listed below, we greeted and assisted the guests at our well-attended Environmental Forum on Transportation Alternatives for Rochester. We have educated the public and community groups about water and energy issues at RIT, the Victor Schools, Spiritus Christi Church, the Zoo, and the Brighton Energy Fair. And we have created fun educational tools to teach kids about water quality issues and energy conservation. For these successes you are greatly appreciated:

Laura Arney
Margie Campaign
Nancy Chalker-Tenant
Peter Debes
Kathleen Draper
Cheryl Frank
John Griffin
Keri Kaminsky
Linda Ludgate
Janet MacLeod
Ron Missel
Deb Muratore
Sandy Patla
Marilyn Rizzo-Ferris
Bob Seigel
Denise Speicher
Dina Stein
Susan Stinson
Karen Streech
Holly Wheeler

A special thank you to Hugh Mitchell, Frank Regan, and Pat Loffredo, who worked hard at organizing and publicizing the Environmental Forum.

Thank you very much to Ray Nelson, who works singlehandedly behind the scenes to put out this bimonthly newsletter. And finally, thank you to those of you who work so diligently on our Global Warming & Energy, Wetlands, and Great Lakes Committees.

See below for a list of upcoming volunteer opportunities. For these events, no special experience is needed, just a friendly smile and willingness to staff our information table for a minimum of two hours:

June 14 - Adirondack Mountain Club Outdoor Expo, Mendon Ponds Park, 9AM-4PM

July 26 & 27 - Ganondagan's Native American Dance and Music Festival, Victor, 10AM-6PM both days.

Volunteers get free admission to the festival for themselves and one guest.

If interested, please e-mail Linda at lci_msw@hotmail.com or leave a message on Sierra Club voicemail 234-1056.

Call To Action

by Fedele/Missel/Withers

Seeking Volunteers To Help Our Voices Be Heard

The Rochester Regional Group is expanding the Political Committee. Do you have an interest in working to improve our environment through political engagement? We already have the beginnings of a committee. So come and join us. We can learn and work together.

Now is the time to make our voices heard. Many factors have come together to enable us to advance our environmental mission. Environmental awareness is rising and has become a major issue in nearly everyone's mind. There are more open races and those in office now are not feeling as secure as before. The balance of power in this area, and in Albany and Washington, is very precarious. Candidates need every vote they can get and it is increasingly more important for them to have the

Sierra club endorsement. We, however, must make informed decisions and pass this information on to both our constituents and the voters at large.

We are seeking volunteers to help identify, prioritize, and inform the Group on key political issues. This involves drafting key questions that will help to assess candidates' and elected officials' positions on environmental issues, and to present these questions to the respective candidates for their response. The results will be reviewed by our club's Executive Committee resulting in a decision to endorse the candidate or not.

For more information on how you can support these efforts and influence the upcoming election cycle, please leave a message at 234-1056.

Training Opportunity

The Sierra Club's Northeastern Regional Conservation Committees are sponsoring a weekend training & information program at Yale University designed for active volunteers. The program will be held June 20th, Friday PM through Sunday AM, 6/21. Training subjects will be running effective meetings, fundraising, media, organizing and other interesting topics. The approximate cost will be between \$60 to \$120 depending on what you sign up for. The Atlantic Chapter is planning to offer a subsidy to help with the cost if requested. A full scholarship is also available. If you are currently an active volunteer and want to attend, contact Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625 for more details.



ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB
 P.O. Box 10518
 ROCHESTER, NY 14610-9998

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CALENDAR

May 31	Saturday	10:00 AM	-----	Outing, Corbett's Glen (see page 3)	-----	First Unitarian Church parking lot⁴
June 3	Tuesday	6:30 PM		ExCom meeting ¹		Harro East, suite 600
June 7	Saturday	9:30 AM	-----	Outing, Keuka Lake Outlet Trail (see page 3)	----	First Unitarian Church parking lot⁴
June 17	Tuesday	7:30 PM		Wetlands Committee		150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ⁵
June 19	Thursday	7:00 PM	-----	"Black Diamonds" film (see page 1)	-----	Brighton Town Hall Auditorium²
June 24	Tuesday	7:00 PM		Great Lakes Committee		Brighton Library ²
July 15	Tuesday	7:30 PM	-----	Wetlands Committee	-----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ⁵
July 22	Tuesday	7:00 PM		Great Lakes Committee		Brighton Library ²
August 5	Tuesday	6:30 PM	-----	ExCom meeting ¹	-----	6 Sibley Place
August 10	Sunday			eco-logue deadline		
August 19	Tuesday	7:30 PM	-----	Wetlands Committee	-----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton ⁵

¹Open to members. Call 234-1056

²2300 Elmwood Ave.

³2000 Highland Ave. (at corner of S. Winton Rd.)

⁴220 Winton Road South

⁵Call Sara at 442-6890 for information

Visit our web site at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester>

Check out our blog: <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/blogs/>

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.