



# eco-logue

Explore, enjoy  
and protect  
the planet

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

Volume 38, No. 4  
Sept./Oct. 2008

## Sierra Club Fall Festival and Fund Raiser Saturday, October 11th, 5pm-9pm at the Tay House\*

*Via satellite, we watched our plane cross the equator. Countless hours later, we landed in Tanzania.*

*Along with several other families, we began our eco-tenting safari (called Nyumbas) in Northern Tanzania. We visited Tarangire National Park, Ngorongoro Crater, Oedipal Gorge, and Serengeti National Park. We also visited a Masai Village where our children met their pen-pals from a local school near Karatu. The children had been exchanging letters for a year before.*

*We were very lucky. We saw lions, cheetah and leopard. We also saw Rhino, giraffe, herds of elephant, buffalo, zebra, wildebeest and antelope. There were hundreds of species of birds, and beautiful landscapes from*

*Mt. Meru to the Great Rift Valley and Mt Killamingaro. There were amazing sunsets, fields of baobab trees and the endless plains of the Serengeti.*

*We are always happy to share our Tanzanian experience with anyone. Besides the thrill of being amidst untamed nature, Tanzania is a country also filled with warm and hospitable people.*

That's just a teaser of Chris and Lisa Hayes' recent family trip to Africa. Please join us for this year's Fall Festival featuring a slide show and talk.

There will be a happy hour from 5 to 6 with wine, beer, cheese and crackers. Vegetarian pizza dinner will be served at 6. Coffee and tea will also be available. The slide show will begin at 7.

Tickets, which includes food and beverages, are only \$10 per person with a \$30 max for large families. Checks can be made out to Sierra Club and mailed to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 10518, Rochester, NY 14610-10518 or payment can be made at the door. Or you can make reservations by calling our voice mail box 234-1056.

\* Directions to Tay House Lodge at Cobbs Hill Park: From South Winton Road, turn west onto Hillside Ave. Continue three blocks to School #1.

From Culver Road, take Cobbs Hill Park road (Norris Drive) through Cobbs Hill Park. At the Monroe County Water Authority branch right onto Hillside Ave. and look for School #1.

Tay House is behind the School. Parking is available near Tay House.

## The Low Carbon Diet Challenge Save Money, Energy, and the Planet

by Global Warming & Energy Committee members: Linda Isaacson Fedele, Keri Kaminsky, and Bob Siegel

This Fall, our local Rochester Regional Group is co-sponsoring an ambitious public outreach program to engage citizens across the greater Rochester area in taking action against climate change. Climate change is cited by the Sierra Club as the most serious environmental issue facing our country and our world, due to conclusions reached by thousands of scientists from hundreds of countries. It affects every ecosystem across the globe, and many other regional and local environmental problems, such as droughts, flooding, crop failures, and the spreading of pests

and diseases are actually symptoms of climate change. Taking action against climate change means reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, the most prevalent greenhouse gas causing heat to be trapped in the Earth's atmosphere.

Much media attention is given to new "clean" energy technologies. However, some, like "clean coal," corn ethanol, and nuclear power suffer from serious downsides or risks; others, like wind, solar, cellulosic ethanol, and geothermal will not be available on a large scale for many years. But everyone can take conservation measures right

now to save money, energy, and the planet. In fact, conservation is both the fastest and most cost-effective way to make a positive impact. The Low Carbon Diet Challenge promises to be a fun and inspiring way to connect with neighbors, while learning about climate change and encouraging each other, in a true spirit of community, to make a difference.

The Low Carbon Diet Challenge is based on *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershon, a practical "how-to" book full of simple, concrete actions—like  
*(continued on page 2)*

## From the Chair



by Deb Muratore

Garbage, garbage  
and more garbage

According to the Works, a program on the History Channel, 2 billions tons of garbage is produced world wide in a year. The US produces 251 million tons a year. The statistics go on and on. But the saddest statistics of all are that 34% is paper, 13% is yard waste, 12% is food scraps, 12% is plastics and 8% is metal - most of which can be recycled!

I'm terrified by the amount of garbage I see by the side of the road and in dumpsters. Then there's the unseen garbage - NASA estimates there's 100,000 pieces of man made debris circling the earth AND there's an Ocean Garbage Patch which is estimated to contain 46,000 pieces of plastic per square mile. The statistics are mind numbing especially since there are so many options to landfills - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle.

We want to set up a special committee, partnering with Monroe County Solid Waste and Recycling, to prepare a comprehensive list 'how to keep stuff out of the landfills'. Please join us on 9/11 at 5:30pm to 7:30pm at Abilene on 153 Liberty Pole Way. Pizza will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Bring your interest and ideas to help us and the planet.

A couple of ideas I'd like to address:

- trying to influence companies to stop using #3 to #7 plastics and only use #1 & #2 plastics.
- preparing a list of what and where to recycle stuff around Monroe.

*(LCD Challenge continued)*

driving more carefully, and washing clothes more often in cold water -- with real and measurable impacts. For each action taken, the book provides a corresponding number of tons of carbon dioxide emissions saved. Gershon and his group cite an average reduction in environmental footprint of 20-25% by over 250,000 households across the country, using the Low Carbon Diet program. More information about the book and other communities who've used it can be found at [www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/](http://www.empowermentinstitute.net/lcd/).

At the time of this writing, these Challenge programs are confirmed or being planned:

City of Rochester: multiple sites & dates to be determined

Brighton: Town Hall, 2300 Elmwood Ave.; Mondays: Oct. 6, 6-9 PM; Oct. 20 & Nov. 10 6-8 PM

Irondequoit: Jack's Place, Durand Eastman Park, Sunday, Sept. 28 3-6 PM; two additional dates are to be determined

Greece: Community Center, 3 Vince Tofany Blvd.; three dates to be determined

Perinton: Community Center, 1350 Turk Hill Rd.; Sundays: Sept. 28 1-4 PM; Oct. 12 & 26 1-3 PM

Scottsville/Wheatland: location & dates to be determined

In each community, through a series of three meetings, neighborhood leaders

will foster lively discussion and team building to empower people to take action. Though the overall format in each community will be the same, each one will have a local flavor. Each series is facilitated by a trained local community leader, who will add unique City or Town perspectives. Neighborhood businesses will provide refreshments, and community youth groups will assist with childcare at many of the sessions. In November, after all locations have completed the three meetings and tallied their individual and collective carbon emissions savings, a community wide celebration and awards ceremony will be held at City Hall, hosted by Mayor Duffy and other local officials.

We are very fortunate to be working with the following co-sponsors at the time of this writing: Climate Change Central, The City of Rochester, The Town of Brighton / Color Brighton Green, The Town of Irondequoit, The Town of Greece, The Town of Perinton, Monroe County's Community Asset Partner Network (providing childcare at some locations), and Donnelly's Public House and Napa Wood Fired Pizza (each providing food for the Perinton location).

For more information, please call the Sierra Club at 585-234-1056—you can leave a message, or call the number provided to talk with a "real" person. Or see our website: [newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/lcd.htm](http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/lcd.htm)

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](mailto:FrankRegan@RochesterEnvironment.com) and put "subscribe SC Mailing List" in the subject line.

Call 585-234-1056  
for Sierra Club voice mail.

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.

# Conjecturing on Reasons for a New Water Treatment Plant

by Hugh Mitchell

Make no mistake about it - water is about money. This is one reason the Monroe County Water Authority (MCWA) wants to build a new Eastside water treatment plant. They believe there will be a golden future which will provide MCWA increased water revenues. As in the go-go days of Director John Stanwick, the Board is still largely made up of individuals with strong interests in suburban growth. I suspect they are mesmerized by the lure of regional development, even if this may be in rural areas outside Monroe County and even if this growth pulls revenue away from Monroe County.

The Eastside plant has been on the planning map ever since the bad old days of urban destruction related to Monroe County expansion when subdivisions and malls would spring up like mushrooms after a rain. Then, and also now, the County discourages regional planning. But since the gusher of the '60s, new realities have taken hold. The MCWA Board needs to look at high gas prices, the end of oil, escalating costs associated with McMansion suburbs and the fact that as

business slinks out of town we are seeing population losses around the region. If there is to be new growth the trend lines will point back toward the city, not toward Rochester's outer ring areas. Growth projections do not support construction of a new water treatment plant.

Future water planning should take into account the fact the City has a significant excess of high quality water. When the city's water supply is considered in combination with MCWA we learn we already have a huge overcapacity of potable water. Combined there is a regional overcapacity of approximately 300 million gallons of treated water available. Considering these facts there is absolutely no need for more water supplies at this time.

There is another reason to question construction of a new plant in Webster: it will require energy-intensive pumping costs to move water up hill from Lake Ontario. We must consider the global warming effects of more electricity use at a time when we should have major concerns about how to conserve

power use. At about 8 lbs/gal water is extremely heavy. As the system is currently configured MCWA must pump this heavy water uphill from Lake Ontario throughout the region all the way to the Perinton Hills and to Genesee County using 13 low lift pumps, 10 high duty pumps and 85 booster pumps. Thus the electricity involved with producing and pumping water makes the MCWA the third largest user of electricity in Monroe County.

Most of our electricity comes from coal, gas or nuclear. If we hope to reduce global warming we need to make major national and international efforts to reduce the use of fossil fuels. The quickest immediate way to do this is to conserve electricity. If, in the future, more water is needed we should immediately start planning the development of upland, gravity fed water supplies like the City uses, not invest in an expensive new Eastside treatment plant which must use a huge amount of energy and in the process create more global warming.

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## Hike Rob's Trail -Hemlock to Canadice

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am to 1:00 pm



The Nature Conservancy has opened a marvelous new trail called "Rob's Trail." It connects the city's Hemlock property with their Canadice Lake trail. We plan to meet at the First Unitarian Church

at 8:30 to scope the hike. We will leave cars at both ends of the trail for an end-

to-end hike. The approximate distance is 3.5 miles with plenty of nature sights. The Canadice spur trail becomes steep and challenging, so bring good hiking shoes. It's a 6 of 10 level of difficulty. Evaluate if you can manage a that level. Leaders will be Howard Camp and Hugh Mitchell. We will meet for car pooling at the lower parking lot of First Unitarian Church, 220 S. Winton Road, at 8:30 AM.

## Washington Grove Project

by Peter Debes

As reported in the June/July/August issue of eco-logue, the Sierra Club has initiated a project to restore and protect the Washington Grove forest at Cobbs Hill Park in Rochester. The first meeting was held at the Unitarian Church on Winton road on Wednesday, July 30. Introductions were done and some working agreements were established. A second meeting is planned for Aug. 17 at the School Without Walls at 7 pm. If you are interested in participating and have not yet contacted the project organizer, Peter Debes, please call him at 585-271-4796 and leave a message.

## Great Lakes Committee Update

by Wayne Howard – Committee Chair

A few weeks ago, I took a quiet walk along the shore and board walk at Braddock's Bay. I was on the way back from an Earth Voyager Tour planning meeting at the Port of Rochester. I watched three anchored boats fishing along the weed line. Swallows swooped in and around them, eating their lunch of bugs above the water. What a beautiful sight! I could have stayed there for hours. It seems as though we never find enough time to simply enjoy what we work so hard to restore and protect.

My walk gave me a chance to reflect on the many things that our Great Lakes Committee has accomplished this past year. In September, we attended the Healing Our Waters Great Lakes Restoration Conference in Chicago and in December, the NYS Chapter Conference in Niagara Falls. In February we descended on Capitol Hill for Great Lakes Day. We helped to garner support for the Compact,

the Legacy Act, the Clean Water Restoration Act and the Ballast Water Management Act (invasive species).

Locally, we gave several presentations on the issues of Great Lakes Restoration Legislation and Water Privatization to area environmental groups and faith-based communities. We also created educational Great Lakes restoration displays for several local libraries. I hope that you had a chance to see our grand display that has been in the downtown library for the month of August. On August 28<sup>th</sup> we will cap off this event with a Noon community discussion entitled "Water Scarcity in the Great Lakes? Is the world's water supply a public right or a commodity?"

We worked to help secure support for the Plan B+ Lake Ontario lake level plan and the Great Lakes Compact. After seven long years, the Compact Resolution just passed the full Senate and the House Judiciary Committee.

It is expected to pass, along with the Legacy Act Reauthorization, when Congress returns in September. Please send a thank you to our State delegations in Albany and Capitol Hill for their support and hard work.

As summer comes to an end, we have been busy planning an exciting agenda for this coming year – including the Earth Voyager Tour and a film/panel discussion entitled "The Water Front." (Please see the separate article: Great Lakes Committee – Upcoming Events.) We will continue our advocacy and our campaign to educate our community on the issues of Great Lakes restoration and water privatization.

We will celebrate our accomplishments at our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual committee picnic on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please also see our list of committee meetings on the back of this Eco-Logue. New members are always welcome!

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## Great Lakes Committee – Upcoming Events

by Wayne Howard – Committee Chair

1. "Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives Tour: A Voyage to Protect and Restore the Great Lakes" at the Port of Rochester, 1000 N. River St., Rochester, NY, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Join us in celebration as we welcome home Earth Voyager – one of the fastest sailing vessels in the Great Lakes. It was built in Rochester, damaged during the CSX accident and then restored to greatness.

Rochester is the last stop of 13 ports on this 2-month journey to highlight the need to restore and protect our most valuable fresh water resource. This is a great opportunity for you to learn more about Great Lakes restoration and to celebrate our accomplishments. For more information: [www.healthylakes.org/tour](http://www.healthylakes.org/tour)

Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – Press Conference at 11:00 AM. Reception at 12:00 to 2:00 PM.

Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM "Every Drop Counts: Lake Ontario Fair" educational expo.

2. The Third Annual NYS Healing Our Waters – Great Lakes Coalition Conference at the Port of Rochester, 1000 N. River St. Rochester, NY, Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

Theme: "NY's Great Lakes Communities: Leadership & Action for Healthy Lakes, Healthy Lives"

NYS HOW is inviting Congressional contenders to come and speak to the conference attendees about their Great Lakes priorities. The conference will focus on what our communities are doing to protect the Great Lakes.

October 4, 2008 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Registration starts at 8:30 AM.

3. Movie/Panel Discussion – "The Water Front" – Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

What if you lived next to the largest body of fresh water in the world but could no longer afford to use it? Thousands of residents of Highland Park, Michigan, (the birthplace of the auto-industry), have received water bills as high as \$10,000, had their water turned off, and their homes foreclosed. They are struggling to keep water, a basic human right, from becoming privatized.

Please join us at the Little Theatre on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. The 53 minute film will be followed by a panel discussion.

## ExCom Nominations Now Open

Our Executive Committee (or “ExCom” in short parlance) is composed of 12 environmentalists. Six members are elected each year, so we now have six openings on the Board. Why not consider running for office? The commitment is not as onerous as you might imagine and our meetings can be a lot of fun since we are all friends and don't bite. We meet for two hours each month, usually on the second Tuesday. Many ExCom members (but not all) choose to assume an administrative task or head up a particular conservation committee. Others serve “at large” and choose to add their voice and vote on environmental concerns.

In the past, a number of people interested in doing something about

conservation, who have not had much prior experience with leadership, have joined the board. It's a great way to work with a group and sharpen your leadership skills. Training and guidance are available. In fact, some of our Ex-Com members have gone to the national headquarters of the Sierra Club in San Francisco for training - with most expenses paid.

If you are interested in learning more about seeking a nomination for the ExCom or if you have a Sierra Club friend who you think would make a good board member, please call or e-mail Deb Muratore, Nominations Committee, (585) 385-9743, deb.muratore@hotmail.com. Nominations close on October 1.

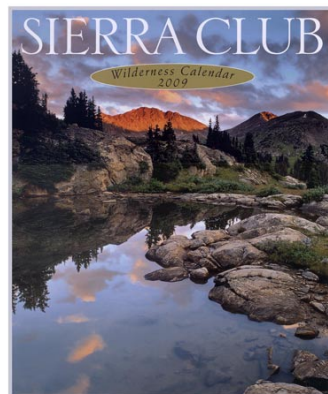
## Book Discussion Group

by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

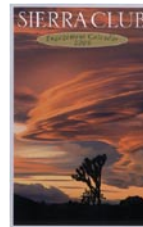
The Sierra Club Book Discussion Group, which is open to all, will start up again this Fall. We will meet at 7 PM, Monday, September 8th and October 13, at Spot Coffee, 200 East Avenue, Rochester NY. There are plenty of comfortable chairs. The books we read focus on conservation, nature, and current global situations and are selected by the group. All are welcome to be a part of these lively discussions. The first book this Fall is *World Made by Hand*, by James H. Kunstler. It's available at the library.

Join us even if you have not had a chance to read the entire book.

Questions? Call Nancy at 244-2634.



**Sierra Club 2009 Wilderness Wall Calendar**-Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.



**Sierra Club 2009 Engagement Calendar**-Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and 'wire-o' binding.

ORDER FORM

## SIERRA CLUB 2009 CALENDARS

Make Check or money order payable to: <b>Sierra Club - Rochester</b> Mail check and order form to: <b>David Ruekberg</b> <b>9 Shire Oaks Dr.</b> <b>Pittsford, NY 14534</b> Questions? Call David at 585-329-9834 or E-mail: SierraRochTix@hotmail.com <b>Note:</b> Please support the work of your local club by ordering directly from us.	<b>CALENDAR</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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## CALENDAR

Sept. 2	Tuesday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup> -----	----- Harro East, suite 600
Sept. 5	Friday	12:00 PM	Earth Voyager reception (see page 4)	Port of Rochester, 1000 N. River Street
Sept. 7	Sunday	12:00 PM	Lake Ontario Fair (see page 4)	Port of Rochester, 1000 N. River Street
Sept. 8	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Discussion Group	Spot Coffee, 200 East Ave., Rochester
Sept. 16	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Global Warming and Energy Committee -----	----- St. Thomas Episcopal Church <sup>3</sup>
Sept. 16	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>5</sup>
<b>Sept. 20</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:30 AM</b>	<b>----- Outing: Rob's Trail (see page 3) -----</b>	<b>----- First Unitarian Church parking lot<sup>4</sup></b>
Sept. 23	Tuesday	6:00 PM	Great Lakes Committee picnic	location TBA, call Wayne Howard 359-0782
Sept. 28	Sunday	1:00 PM	----- Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2) -----	----- Perinton Community Center
Sept. 28	Sunday	3:00 PM	Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2)	Jack's Place, Durand Eastman Park
Oct. 4	Saturday	9:00 AM	----- Great Lakes Coalition Conference (see page 4) -----	----- Port of Rochester, 1000 N. River Street
Oct. 6	Monday	6:00 PM	Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2)	Brighton Town Hall
Oct. 7	Tuesday	6:30 PM	----- ExCom meeting <sup>1</sup> -----	----- Harro East, suite 600
<b>Oct. 11</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>5:00 PM</b>	<b>----- Fall Festival (see page 1) -----</b>	<b>----- Tay House</b>
Oct. 12	Sunday	1:00 PM	----- Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2) -----	----- Perinton Community Center
Oct. 12	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
Oct. 13	Monday	7:00 PM	----- Book Discussion Group -----	----- Spot Coffee, 200 East Ave., Rochester
<b>Oct. 15</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>----- Film "The Water Front" (see page 4) -----</b>	<b>----- Little Theatre, 240 East Ave., Rochester</b>
Oct. 20	Monday	6:00 PM	----- Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2) -----	----- Brighton Town Hall
Oct. 21	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Global Warming and Energy Committee	St. Thomas Episcopal Church <sup>3</sup>
Oct. 21	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	----- 150 Sunset Drive, Brighton <sup>5</sup>
Oct. 26	Sunday	1:00 PM	Low Carbon Diet Challenge (see page 2)	Perinton Community Center
Oct. 28	Tuesday	7:00 PM	----- Great Lakes Committee -----	----- Brighton Library <sup>2</sup>

<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>220 Winton Road South