



eco-logue

*Explore, enjoy
and protect
the planet*

ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP

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A Celebration of Nancy Dean's Life

by Deb Muratore, Sierra Club, Rochester Regional Group Chair

On the first of May, Nancy Dean died. Instead of listing the numerous organizations that Nancy belonged to and contributed to, I decided to write about how she affected me.

I met her in 1989 at my first Sierra Club meeting. She was the chair at the time and she immediately took me under her wing. We went to countless hearings, meetings and schools to speak for the protection of the planet. Her generosity was without limits. There was always a meeting

in her dining room or garden. I don't ever remember her speaking an unkind word about anyone.

Her birthday was two days after mine and 38 years before mine, so I felt a special connection to her. I will miss her indomitable optimism and courage to always speak her mind about injustice. She was very enthusiastic in her quiet way. She was generous in her time, knowledge and love.

It is hard for me to imagine a world without Nancy. But maybe

I don't really need to because she leaves behind a legacy of love and a bridge of connectedness from one heart to many others. It will be impossible not to see her in places I go and people I know who knew her. Her spirit will live on in these people and places.

Thank you for your love and friendship. I am eternally grateful.

My commitment is to continue to preserve, protect and enjoy the planet all the days of my life.

by Hugh Mitchell

I like to think of a person's life as footprints. The impression some lives leave are like rapidly fading footprints, but Nancy Dean's footprints are carved deeply in Rochester history. She was unique. Born to a wealthy society and married to very great Rochester wealth. Nancy was never overcome or overly awed by the position she held in this upper crust society. In fact, many of my most amusing memories about Nancy are founded on the fact of her honesty, humor and her jocund alacrity often scoffing her class.

One of my favorite Nancy Dean

stories involved a humorous incident related to our Sierra Club effort to save Pinnacle Hill. When she found out that Carl Penn, the nephew of her wealthy friend Albert Finnevesy (who had owned Pinnacle Hill) wanted to buy the Hill she said, "Well, I'll just call Albert up and tell him I want to buy the Hill." This was a very amusing idea since she had no intention of buying the place. Not more than an hour after she talked to Albert she had a mysterious call from Dallas, Texas, from someone who would not identify himself. It turned out to be Carl Penn, who pleaded with her

not to buy it. He said the place was worthless. Of course he had plans to plaster housing all over the hill.

Right up to the end of her life Nancy gave generously of her time and fortune for the preservation and advancement of progressive causes and the Rochester environment. She repeatedly opened her home and garden for meetings and social events for the Sierra Club. Perhaps even more significantly Nancy served on the Sierra Club Ex-Com for many years and for several years she was our Rochester Regional Group Chairperson. She will be sorely missed.

From the Chair



by Deb Muratore

I'm always amazed when I can learn something new. I staffed a Sierra Club table at the town of Penfield's Earth Day celebration on April 25. I spoke with every environmental group there and was encouraged by their commitment to help reduce, reuse and recycle.

For all the hikes I've taken around Monroe County I never stopped to think about who had the vision to make and maintain these wonderful trails. At the Penfield Earth Day celebration I met a couple of people from the Penfield Trails Committee and found out about trail maintenance.

Per an e-mail from Jim Britt of the Penfield Trails Committee, they

are involved in building new trails and maintaining approximately 15 miles of trails within the Town of Penfield. This includes trails located in the Town of Penfield Parks, Monroe County Parks (Ellison, Wetlands Center, Bay Park East) and connecting linkage trails around the town that have easements on private land. Some of the maintenance tasks include: trimming of brush, clearing fallen trees or limbs, restoring the trail surface with wood chips and re-routing certain trails to avoid obstacles or improve safety. Building new trails in the town is an ongoing effort which is guided by our Trails Master Plan. The timing is determined by land becoming available for trail routes and an assessment by our committee of public needs.

The Penfield Trails Committee has established some fixed days each month for working on trails. The

second Wednesday of the month and the second Saturday following the second Wednesday have been set as standard work days from 9am to noon.

June 10 is designated for work on Honey Creek Trail: trim, spread woodchips and repair bridge planks.

June 20: Coyote Den Trail - Repair a chronically wet area near the South Ellison Entrance on 7/8, 7/18, 8/12 and 8/22.

So if you enjoy hiking or walking and want to help for a few hours to make a difference, call Penfield Recreation at 340-8655. Also visit www.penfield.org to see their hiking schedule. Or contact your own town Park & Rec centers. I'm sure they would also appreciate any help in maintaining trails. I hope to see you at a clean up or hiking in one of the many parks around Monroe County.

Help For A Much-Loved Park Call For Volunteers

by Peter Debes

Nestled behind the reservoir atop Cobb's Hill lies a beautiful grove of giant old oaks, commemorated as Washington Grove after our First President. This is nature's cathedral and many come here to stroll, exercise, walk their dogs, or watch for migrating birds. As beautiful as it is the forest is showing signs that all is not well. Humans have introduced invasive plants such as the Norway maple that are crowding out native trees. Trails have widened and are eroding with heavy traffic. Some native species of plants and animals are declining or have disappeared in the last twenty years. But help is on the way.

A dedicated coalition of people and neighborhood groups have

joined a project sponsored by the Sierra Club in partnership with the City of Rochester, to restore and protect the Grove. After 10 months of work, they have produced a Master Plan which has been submitted and approved by the City of Rochester.

A variety of actions have been proposed to address the problems faced by the Grove. The Project is looking for volunteers to help with actions such as modifying existing trails to prevent erosion and repair damage. Invasive species will be tagged and eliminated gradually. Native species will be planted to replace those that are aging and dying. Pac Tac teams will be trained and begin walking the Grove to

educate others about the Project, encourage cooperation with Project efforts and discourage misuse of the Grove. On June 6, and June 20, a scientific study of the Grove will be done by a graduate student at SUNY Brockport to determine the structure and composition of the forest.

If you are looking for a community project that will enhance our neighborhood and City, and would like to work with other visionary and committed people on a multi-year project that will make a difference, please call Peter Debes, the Project Leader (585) 234-1056 or contact him at phdebes@frontier.net.

From the Water Front...

A new film and a special project of the Great Lakes Committee
by Wayne Howard, Great Lakes Committee Chair

Will water really be “the oil of the 21st century?” Why do people spend up to 4,000 times more for bottled water when its purity is less regulated than tap water? Who will stop large, multi-national corporations from taking over the world’s water supply?

As part of our ongoing effort to educate the community about the issue of water privatization, we will be showing the new film *Blue Gold: World Water Wars* by Sam Bozzo at the Henrietta Library on Monday, June 15th from 6:45 to 8:45 PM. This showing is free and open to the public.

This film is based on the book: *Blue Gold: The Fight to Stop the Corporate Theft of the World’s Water* by Maude Barlow and Tony Clark.



Please join us for the 90-minute film followed by a lively

discussion, hosted by our Great Lakes Committee. This is truly a remarkable, eye-opening film. The Salt Lake Tribune reports: “Unlike many other films that simply drown its audience with hopelessness, *Blue Gold* actually has some ideas that will work to help the world avoid an epidemic... *Blue Gold* is excellent.” Please see the film’s website for more information. (www.bluegold-worldwaterwars.com).

As many of you know, the Great Lakes Compact was ratified in Congress at the end of their term this past year. It was the culmination of a seven-year process. Yet, the implementation process has just begun!

By December 2010, each State and Province in the Great Lakes Basin must develop and revise existing water conservation programs to satisfy the Water Conservation and Efficiency Goals and Objectives of the States’ Compact (and Agreement with Canada). These Goals and Objectives set a minimum bar for water conservation. Each State has the opportunity to set a higher bar in their legislative implementation language. By

December 2013, the Compact (and Agreement) must be fully implemented.

The Sierra Club Bi-National Great Lakes Committee just received a Sierra Club Activist Network grant to create a Toolkit to help encourage the adoption of aggressive water conservation and efficiency programs by States and Provinces within the Great Lakes Basin. This Toolkit will be used by local environmental groups as a means of showing local municipalities what an effective water conservation and efficiency program would be like.

This Toolkit will help encourage municipalities take action to save our water resources, save money, save energy (by pumping, supplying and leaking less water), and protect against the future impacts of climate change. Water use = Energy use = Carbon footprint!

Rochester, NY is being considered as a demonstration community for the next phase of this project. Please see the Great Lakes Committee’s section on our website. We will post more details as they become available.

GREAT LAKES COMMITTEE COLLABORATES WITH THE GIRL SCOUT TROOP J377 ON BOTTLED WATER

by Susan Stinson

The GLC is raising awareness of the harm due to proliferation of bottled water. In promoting the use of tap water, instead of bottled, we worked with a local Girl Scout troop to construct a display at the Brighton Library in February, 2009. Two GLC workshops included activities that introduced the troop to new concepts. For example:

- A blind water taste test and a survey of types of water their families used introduced the girls to the cost of bottled vs. tap water.
 - A simplified demonstration of water filtration fascinated the girls, and led them to suggest additional ideas for experimenting with water filtration.
- It was inspirational to see the enthusiasm of the girls in participating

and learning about an issue that is part of their every day life. We felt that we provided the girls a meaningful educational activity.

The Sierra Club pamphlet, "Bottled Water", recommends several actions to take to reduce the use of bottled water:

- AVOID using BOTTLED WATER unless absolutely necessary.
- Drink from REUSABLE METAL CONTAINERS filled with tap water when traveling.
- At public events and at home, OFFER PITCHERS of water.
- Talk to your favorite restaurants about NOT offering bottled water.
- Help ensure that GOOD QUALITY TAP WATER is available

to everyone in your community at an affordable price.

- Advocate for adequate funding and GOOD PUBLIC MANAGEMENT of MUNICIPAL WATER systems. For information about your local drinking water, go to <http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/water/drinking/>
- Advocate for strict state and local groundwater laws to PROTECT AQUIFERS and other water resources.
- Protect our rivers, streams, and wetlands from POLLUTION to assure high quality public water supplies.

To learn more about the Sierra Club's bottled water campaign, visit www.sierraclub.org/cac/water. Another good resource on water actions is <http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org>.

Book Review

Where The Wild Things Were

by William Stolzenburg

A review by Nancy Chalker-Tennant

Stolzenburg writes of major predators such as wolves, bears, huge colonies of mollusks and starfish, and man. Scientists and conservationists who have made predator research their life's work are a part of this book which is written with clarity and grace.

The predator takes the weakest, thus strengthening the gene pool. For example, the prey was an elk with a huge swollen ankle. "Wolves choreographed a dance of death with their prey, the casual scanning of the herd, the targeting and testing for

weakness, the escalation of the chase, the flailing of hooves and locking of teeth on hide, and the wrestling to submission." Stolzenburg gives intriguing factual details that point to the view that the large predators are essential to the natural ecological process.

The Sierra Book Discussion Group will meet Monday June 8, 7 pm at the First Unitarian church. We will have dessert available to enjoy in the garden, while we discuss future books to read. Please bring your ideas.

Ganondagan Festival

The Sierra Club will have a table at the Native American Dance & Music Festival (Victor, NY), July 25-26, 10am to 6pm both days. If you can help us by talking to festival goers for 2 or 3 hours on either day, you'll get free admission to the Festival for you and one guest on the day(s) you work. No special knowledge is necessary, we'll prep you. Take this fun opportunity to get involved with our Rochester Group. If interested in helping at this event or others, e-mail lci_msw@hotmail.com, or call 234-1056.

Ex-Com Acts to Oppose Mt Bikes in Parks

by Hugh Mitchell

It's fair to say Sierra Club loves the use of bikes – most bikes that is. But when it comes to the irresponsible, anti-natural and dangerous use of mountain bikes on narrow hiking trails in our urban parks, we do not like the idea. We feel that the broad interests of hikers, nature lovers, dog walkers, and handicapped persons should not be limited by young, vigorous, thrill-seeking people who want the challenge of a high-stress sport, charging around natural areas. And, by the way, they ruin the trails, cause erosion, crush wildflowers, and cut new paths by recklessly riding through the woods.

Nationally, the Sierra Club recognizes that mountain bike riding can be a lot of fun. But when it comes to our national policy on off-road bike use, we have only approve their use in designated, special “backwoods” trails. Contrary to what local pro-mountain bike groups have been saying, we never approved of riders using narrow urban park trails.

In November the Ex-Com passed the below (abridged) resolution on mountain biking in Monroe County and City parks.

We therefore resolve that given the mission of the Sierra Club to preserve, protect, and restore our natural heritage, the Rochester Regional Group of Sierra Club:

1. Supports the enforcement of existing park regulations prohibiting bike riding in parks.

2. Urges our local government agencies to reaffirm and support the existing park laws particularly as applied to illegal mountain biking.

3. Recommends that illegal walking trail alterations made in City and County parks by biker riders be removed and trails be restored to their original appearance.

4. Finally, we propose a feasibility study be permitted to construct one experimental mountain bike trail in Tryon Park.

Item #4 was passed in an effort to compromise with the well organized bikers who were pushing to open all Monroe County Parks to off-road bikes by agreeing to let them open some of Tryon Park on “an experimental basis”. Together with a number of other environmental organizations, we thought we had a reasonable compromise,

but when the final report of the Master Plan for Ellison Park areas came out we found to our chagrin that the commercial and users groups had won the use of four parks. The recommendations, which will now go to the Monroe County Legislature for action, are that Ellison, Irondequoit East, Irondequoit West, connecting trails, and Tryon Park all be open to mountain bike riding.

We urge members to contact your local Monroe County legislator to urge that the park laws which now prohibit bike riding in parks remain in place. We urge safety, nature preservation and trails for all sensible users not just a few machine lovers.

The Super-Forum

Sierra Club's 11th Annual Environmental Forum on April 16, 2009 at the First Unitarian Church in Rochester was a huge success! Over 475 people attended this year's event. There were over 50 booths including local food producers and providers and local environmental and non-profit organizations. There were green product raffles, seed give-a-ways, demonstrations, presentations on bees and butterflies and much more. Light jazz music was provided by the Art St. Hilaire Trio and light fare food was provided by Abundance Co-op Market. The speaking portion of the event began with Michael Warren Thomas, local Independent Radio Host and Speaker talking about all the

wonderful ways people can grow food for themselves. The next speaker, Peter McDonald, Clean Food Farmer and Speaker talked about how to be a smart buyer of sustainable food, particularly meat. He also discussed the restorative practices that are used on his farm. Finally, Elizabeth Henderson-Farmer, Author and Community Supported Agriculture Pioneer talked about how consumers can support local food production and become co-producers through understanding and knowing their local farmers. The Sierra Club thanks all those who were involved and helped to make the evening the great success that it was.



ROCHESTER REGIONAL GROUP
 OF THE SIERRA CLUB
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CALENDAR

June 2	Tuesday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ¹	Harro East, suite 600
June 8	Monday	7:00 PM	Book Discussion/Picnic (see page 4)	Highland Park, by the reservoir
June 15	Monday	6:45 PM	Great Lakes Committee, see film "Blue Gold"	Henrietta Public Library ⁷
June 16	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	Call for directions ⁵
June 22	Monday	7:00 PM	Global Warming and Energy Committee	St. Thomas Episcopal Church ³
June 23	Tuesday	7:00 PM	Great Lakes Committee	12 Middle School Library ⁸
July 7	Tuesday	6:30PM	ExCom meeting ¹	Harro East, suite 600
July 21	Tuesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	Call for Directions ⁵
July 27	Monday	7:00 PM	Global Warming and Energy Committee	St. Thomas Episcopal Church ³
June 23	Tuesday	5:30 PM	Great Lakes Committee	picnic
Aug. 9	Sunday		eco-logue deadline	
Aug. 4	Tuesday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ¹	Harrow East, suite 600

¹Open to members. Call 234-1056

³2000 Highland Ave. Call 703-1189 for directions

⁵Call 442-6890 or 586-6085 for information

⁷455 Calkins Road

²149 Elmwood Ave.

⁴220 S. Winton Rd.

⁶see www.healthylakes.org

⁸2300 Elmwood Ave.

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.