

SUMMER OUTINGS

DON'T MISS THE FUN. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW



One of the advantages of belonging to Sierra Club is the opportunity it gives to explore and enjoy the outdoors. And our Finger Lakes region is a spectacular place for these nature activities. This spring and summer we will have a number of interesting outings and outdoor learning events for Sierra Club members, friends and guests. No hikes are too difficult for children. To learn more details call the Outings Chairperson, Howard Camp, 473-1410, unless otherwise indicated in the descriptions below.

Genesee River

Hiking, Biking, Canoeing Saturday, June 7

June 7, 2003 is National Trails Day. We will celebrate by participating in an event sponsored by two other groups: the University of Rochester, and a group affiliated with the City of Rochester called The Friends of the Genesee Riverway and Trail. The event will highlight recreation possibilities on and along the Genesee River. The center of activity will be at a parking lot on Wilson Blvd. at the intersection of McLean St. Several activities are planned including hikes, biking and canoeing. They will begin at 9 AM and last no later than 3 PM.

At 10 AM, a family oriented walking tour and bike tour will depart on a loop

HERE'S THE WHOLE SCHEDULE

Date	Event/Location	details
June 7, Saturday	Hike/Bike/Canoe Genesee River @ U of R	this page
June 8, Sunday	Allegany County Canoeing Caneadea to Fillmore	this page
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Aug. 2, Saturday	Great Trees and Mysterious Trails Mendon Ponds Park	Page 2
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Sept. 6, Saturday	Wesley Hill Nature Preserve Near Honeoye Lake	Page 2

of trails from the U. of R. north toward downtown and back. Bring your own bike for the biking tour.

At 11 AM, a tree tour will be led by an expert horticulturist, pointing out unusual tree specimens, notably rare oaks.

At 12:15 PM, live music will accompany your "bring-your-own" picnic lunch.

At 10 AM, 11 AM, and 1 PM, Sierra Club's Laura Arney will guide visitors on a one hour canoe loop on the river and the canal entrance. This event will take off from the Genesee Waterways Center on the west side of the Genesee across from Genesee Valley Park. You can bring your own canoe or rent one. Canoe or kayak rental is \$14 total (equipment included) for first hour, \$7 per hour after that. Here is your chance to do some flat water paddling.

Call Laura E. Arney 334-8548 for details or questions.

Allegany County Canoeing Sunday, June 8, 9:00 AM

The Sierra Club is sponsoring this downstream canoe trip on the Genesee River from Caneadea to Fillmore in Allegany County. This section of the river has a nice gradient with the looks of a long slow slide. The views are lovely and rural. Depending on the water level, there may be some maneuvering of the canoes to avoid shallow spots (riffles) and downed trees. The trip is open to 5 canoes with passengers allowed. Do not plan to come on this trip if you must meet a deadline and be back in Rochester at a certain time. Level of canoe difficulty: 5 of 10.

Meeting place: School #1 parking lot, Hillside Ave. near Tay House, Cobbs Hill Park. 9:00 AM

Travel time: 1½ hrs each way, ferrying cars will take additional time.

(Continued on page 2)

FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

The other day I had the opportunity to talk to an RIT class on topics related to our Sierra Club purposes, which are spelled out as “explore, enjoy, and protect the environment.” To tell you the truth I’d never paid much attention to these words before, but now I can see new meaning in them.

We usually interpret the invitation to “explore” in the traditional way, meaning running a series of outings to interesting natural areas. (Our thanks to Howard Camp for leading recent outings to Bentley’s Woods and Montezuma Wildlife Refuge.) But “explore” can also be an intellectual exploration of environmental ideas

such as reading Thoreau. And, carrying this concept a bit deeper, “explore” can apply to your inner psychological environment as well as the external environment. Challenging Sierra Club explorations offer growth experiences.

The invitation to “Enjoy” also seems clear and, of course, there are multiple ways to enjoy yourself. For example, our program on Finger Lakes Trails and Waterfalls was hugely successful as was our annual Environmental Forum, which was attended by over 32 groups. (Sixty percent of the audience had never attended before.) Enjoyment also applies to meeting new people, sharing a picnic like we did with the Syracuse Sierra Club, or enjoying a personal interaction with the beauty of nature.

“Protect the environment” is a more challenging concept but one which can give the greatest fun and learning. Surprisingly, I’ve learned that some

of the more public expressions of environmentalism, like public protests, teaching, and forums can provide the best personal education and be the most fun. Here’s a short list of skills and abilities which can be gained by working to protect the environment: self-knowledge, improved listening skills, effective communication, critical thinking skills, organizing skills and enhanced ability to make decisions.

Working for the betterment of the planet can mean challenging and expanding the horizon of your personal character.

Why not join one of our Sierra Club fun activities and see for yourself. And if you’d like to do something to protect and restore the environment call me at 244-2625. I’d like to tell you about some of our many volunteer activities.

Allegany County Canoeing *(Continued from page 1)*

Canoe time: 3 hours plus shore stops, picnic.

Required: your own canoe (or rental) and paddles, some river boating experience, one life preserver for each person.

Bring: sun screen, bag lunch, water and drinks. A gas station in Filmore is convenient for the purchase of forgotten items.

Sign up in advance is required. Contact Laura Arney at 334-8548 or larney@rochester.rr.com

Native American Sites Saturday, July 12th, 9:30 AM

A guided study visit to Ganondagan and Bare Hill, mythic birth place of the Seneca Nation. This is a rare opportunity to learn about Seneca history first hand from expert guides, led by Kathy Gill, PhD. All-day outing, but no hard hiking. Bring lunch, liquids, camera or notebook. Meet at First Unitarian Church (lower parking lot), 220 Winton Rd. South.

Great Trees and Mysterious Trails Saturday, August 2nd, 9:30 AM

Led by Trisha Wright, we will visit ancient trees, some more than 300 years old and hike little known trails in Mendon Ponds Park and elsewhere. Nature study. Bring hiking gear, picnic lunch, liquids. Level of difficulty: easy 3 of 10. Meet at First Unitarian Church (lower parking lot), 220 Winton Rd. South for car pooling.

Rattlesnake Hill Saturday, August 16th, 9:30 AM

A hike and wilderness tour followed by a picnic at “The Camp’s Camp” and hilltop pond. Swimming. Picnic. Call The Camps for details 473-1410. Meet at First Unitarian Church (lower parking lot), 220 Winton Rd. South for car pooling. Bring picnic lunch, liquids, hiking gear, bathing suit, towel. Level of difficulty: easy.

Wesley Hill Nature Preserve Saturday, September 6th, 9:30 AM

This beautiful new nature preserve, 349 acres, is owned by the Finger Lakes Land Trust and offers an amazing variety of woods, trails, streams, and canyons above Honoe Lake, near Cumming Nature Center. Hiking level of difficulty easy, 4 of 10. Bring a picnic lunch, liquids, hiking gear, bug juice. Meet at First Unitarian Church (lower parking lot), 220 Winton Rd. South for car pooling.

Fall Festival 2003

Coming in October: **Jim Stoltz!**

When he was here in 2001, members unanimously praised Jim’s wonderful songs and slides of his annual summer-long wilderness treks. Jim has earned an “Outstanding Achievement Award” from the EPA for his “extraordinary words, images, and music.” Mark your calendars now: **October 25**. More details to follow in the next issue of Eco-logue.

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 living in the Rochester Region, and available at \$10 per year to others.

Wetlands Protection

by George Parker and Sara Rubin

The Wetlands Committee's primary focus is to be an advocate for the preservation and defense of wetlands threatened by human construction projects. We attempt to educate ourselves about the existence of such projects, the wildlife and plant life dependent upon wetlands, the evolving federal and state law that affects wetland protection and then to advocate in a cogent, meaningful manner. How? By submitting verbal and written comments to administrative agencies involved in regulating construction projects. The more knowledgeable we are, the better our advocacy, the harder to ignore us. As an example, here are excerpts of one of our member's advocacy, Sara Rubin's statement to the Brighton Conservation Board, May 13, 2003.

"Recently we, the members of the Wetland Committee of the Sierra Club, became aware of the proposed expansion of the Laser Lab of the U. of R. at 250 E. River Rd. As it happens we had been taping frog calls throughout the seasons in that very wetland. This wetland is in the path of proposed construction.

"Our committee has been aware of how the Army Corps of Engineers has removed itself from protecting a large percentage of the nation's wetlands. It has become apparent that if states and localities want their isolated wetlands to be protected in this present political climate, they will have to do it themselves.

"On a visit there last week, I saw that the major part of the wetland was a shallow pond which went up to my knees in depth, and supported many cattails and various deciduous trees as well as other plants. Some of the plants have been preliminarily identified as sensitive fern, sedge, various cattails, horsetail, geranium family, dogwood, cottonwood, ash and willow. Birds observed were mallard ducks, red-winged blackbirds and a warbler. Frogs heard were a Spring Peeper and

Atlantic Chapter ExCom To Meet in Rochester

Volunteer help is needed

On the weekend of June 28/29th the Rochester Regional Group will welcome both the Atlantic Chapter ExCom and group treasurers for their quarterly meeting. These executive meetings are held around the state to better integrate the eleven Chapter groups. We would like to host members in homes over Saturday night and offer them a Sunday tour of our beautiful Letchworth Park.

Volunteer help is very much needed. We need a few people to arrange a sand-

wich type lunch for about 40 people on Saturday, June 28th. We need overnight rooms and a meal for delegates on Saturday. And we need tour drivers for the Sunday outing. We will collect for car pooling at 9:30am Sunday and return about 3:30pm.

This is admittedly an ambitious undertaking and your help is very much needed. Please call Hugh Mitchell 244-2625 if you can help with any of these activities.

a Western Chorus Frog. Over the past several years however, the area has been tape recorded when large choruses of Western Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers have been calling, along with anurans typical to that area such as American Toads, Leopard Frogs, Green Frogs and presumably a few others.

"The Laser Lab wetland is obviously part of a network of wetlands around Crittendon Road, Genesee Valley Park and East River Road. In this case, we have the extra responsibility of preserving Western Chorus Frog habitat. We should be careful that wetland areas in our town are not chipped away by development, little piece by little piece, until eventually they will be chopped into too many pieces to work, until like Humpty Dumpty, they can't be put back together again.

"We ask you to require that this wetland not be destroyed, and if it must be, that it be mitigated according to the most stringent requirements to assure success. (A representative of the Army Corps of Engineers has said that more than 50% of mitigated wetlands do not work, i.e. do not function as independent wetlands.) Our town should not be forced to lose any more of its wetland area."

If you are interested in learning more about wetlands and/or want to help preserve them, you are welcome to join our effort. Contact George Parker at 442-2483 or georparker@hotmail.com.

A Defeat for Safety

by Frank Regan

The Neighborhood Notification Law (NNL)--where lawn applicators must give 48 hours warning to neighbors before spraying dangerous chemicals--was squashed (tabled) by the Monroe County Environmental and Public Works Committee on Wednesday, May 7th. NNL is a law of New York State, but has to be adopted separately by a county in order to be effective there.

So, the issue is dead here in Rochester, at least until we vote in a new legislative body. That this happened in our Monroe County Legislature is not as surprising as the callous manner in which it occurred. We had been waiting several months for the Legislature to study this issue. But, instead of an open airing of the facts, there was a secret meeting of the committee where the Director of the Monroe County Health Department, Dr. Andrew Doniger, gave a nine-page report on the NNL. Then, rather than hear any discussion of Doniger's report or consider extending the deliberation for a month when the facts and opinions of many groups fighting for this law could be heard, the committee decided to abruptly end the discussion.

All seems over. Spray drift, not even mentioned at the meeting, will go on and we will continue on oblivious of what our neighbors are pouring into the air we breathe.

CALENDAR

June 7	Saturday	9:00 AM	----- Genesee River Hike, Bike, Canoe (see page 1) -----	Wilson Blvd. at McLean
June 8	Sunday	9:00 AM	Allegany County Canoeing (see pages 1,2)	School #1 parking lot ²
June 17	Tuesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
June 25	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. 2, Penfield ⁵
June 28-29	Sat.-Sun.	various	-----Atlantic Chapter meeting in Rochester (see page 3) -----	call 244-2625 to volunteer help
July 6	Sunday	9:30 AM	ExCom picnic, Wesley Hill Nature Preserve	meet at Mitchell's for car pooling
July 12	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Native American Sites Ganondagan (see page 2) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
July 16	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Wetlands Committee	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
July 23	Wednesday	7:30 PM	-----Energy Committee -----	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield ⁵
Aug. 2	Saturday	9:30 AM	Outing: Great Trees and Mysterious Trails (see page 2)	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Aug. 10	Sunday		Eco-logue deadline	
Aug. 16	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Rattlesnake Hill (see page 2) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Aug. 20	Wednesday	7:30 PM	----- Wetlands Committee -----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Aug. 21	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting	St John's Meadows ³
Aug. 27	Wednesday	7:30 PM	-----Energy Committee -----	25 Brook Hill Lane, Apt. E, Penfield ⁵
Sept. 6	Saturday	9:30 AM	----- Outing: Wesley Hill Nature Preserve -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹

¹ First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South

² Hillside Ave. near Tay House, Cobbs Hill Park

³ Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625

⁵ Call 768-5102 for information and directions

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 frankrrr@rochester.rr.com

Call 244-2625 for information about Sierra Club events and voice mail