

Susquehanna *SIERRAN* December 2021



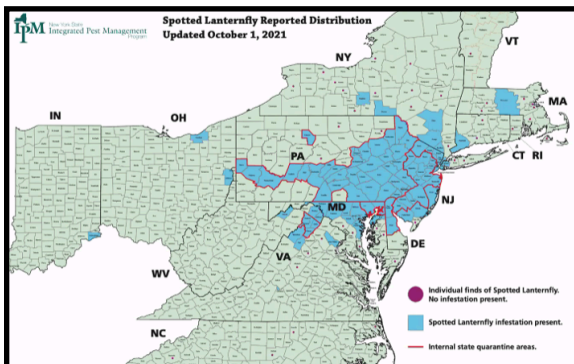
SIERRA
CLUB Founded 1892

– *Election Issue* –

EXPLORE, ENJOY, PROTECT THE PLANET

A Very Simple Report on the November Elections – Allan Hochberg

For the 2021 elections, the Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club endorsed Harris Weiss for Broome County Clerk and Joe Burns for Mayor of Binghamton. Unfortunately, neither of these candidates won their races.



Spotted Lanternfly (SLF)

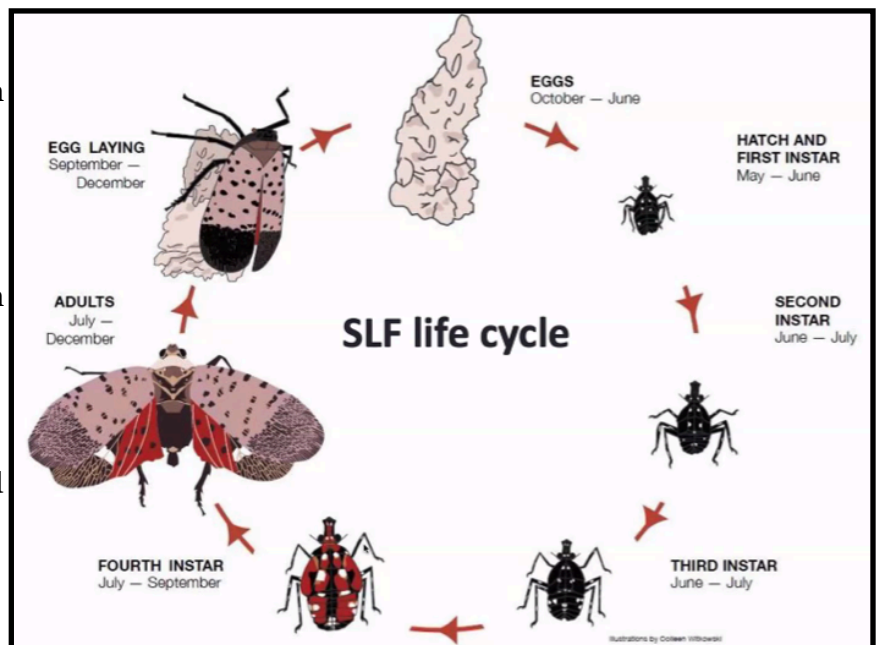
– Doug Gausman

We face a new biological threat, the spotted lanternfly. An invasive planthopper native to Vietnam, China, and India, it is believed to have arrived as egg masses on a shipment to Pennsylvania in 2012. An infestation was discovered in Berks County in 2014. It has spread through wide areas of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is now in Maryland, Virginia, and New York. It threatens vineyards, orchards, and many hardwood trees. They spread by ‘hitchhiking’ on vehicles from infested areas.

The spotted lanternfly has one new generation per year with adults developing in the summer, females laying eggs in late summer and fall, and eggs overwintering in egg masses. Each egg mass contains 30 – 50 eggs laid in rows and covered with a waxy substance. Wingless, black nymphs hatch in the spring. Additional nymph stages have them turning red before becoming winged adults. Adults and nymphs usually gather in large numbers on host plants to feed.

What can/should we do? This is a great time of year to check for egg masses which are about 1.5 inches long, brown or gray. Look for egg masses on the underside of branches, picnic tables, lawn furniture, and other horizontal outside surfaces. If found report them via email to spottedlanternfly@agriculture.ny.gov including a photo and location. Then destroy them by scraping them into a container with rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. When returning from travel through infested areas, carefully check your vehicle for either egg masses or adult SLF. Let’s all work to try to control this dangerous invasive.

For **color** images and additional info go to: http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/spotted_lanternfly/



Executive Committee Annual Election

Group bylaws require annual elections to the Executive Committee, which has 9 members serving 2-year terms. This year we elect 5. Statements by candidates appear below. **Complete the ballot on page 3 and mail it by January 15, 2022** to Susquehanna Group, PO Box 572, Endicott, NY 13760

Mary Cronk

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for over 30 years and would like to serve on the Group Executive Committee for the next term. I am interested in working with the Club's climate change agenda, an issue of primary importance for us and our children. I also want to promote water quality and conversion to renewable energy. My background includes past membership on the Broome County Environmental Management Council, employment at Cornell's Central Computing, birdwatching, and volunteering at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Let's influence our elected leaders and business leaders to make the changes we need to have a safe global ecosystem for all.

Teresa Farrell

I obtained a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science Policy and Management at SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry. I have always been passionate in helping protect natural habitats, wildlife, fisheries and public land for outdoor recreation. As a little girl, I spent countless hours observing nature, and learned about the importance of preserving natural resources. In college, I spent two weeks in Everglades National Park, where we studied wildlife and focused on sustainability. My favorite experience was a night walk listening to nocturnal species. Recently, I helped raise awareness and apply for grants to help fund and organize an Arbor Day tree planting event, one of the requirements to become a Tree City USA. I would be proud to have your consideration to join the Executive committee of the Susquehanna Group of Sierra Club.

Christina Fuller

Originally from Johnson City, NY, I went to Binghamton University straight out of high school. After seeing the enormous amount of waste produced during student move-out, I started the Binghamton Off-Campus Move Out project to keep usable items out of the landfill and give back to the community. I graduated in 2019 with degrees in Psychology and Human Development and moved on to get my Master's in Public Administration, with concentrations in Nonprofit Management and Sustainable Communities. Throughout grad school I worked with VINES, a local nonprofit aiming to create a just and sustainable food system. Informed by my work with VINES as well as on the Move Out project, my passion really lies in sustainable community development, or finding ways to function and thrive as a community in a sustainable way, where everyone has their basic needs met and resources are not depleted for generations to come.

Doug Gausman

I've been in the Sierra Club since 1981 and a member of the Susquehanna Group since 2014. I have long been interested in protecting the environment and have been actively opposed natural gas horizontal fracking in New York. I live close to Pennsylvania and have witnessed fracking operations there. I currently serve on the SGSC Executive Committee. I believe global warming is a very serious concern and have supported various demonstrations concerning same. My family minimizes our environmental impact by investing in community solar (Renovus), using solar panels in new construction, and driving a hybrid vehicle. I have actively participated in local Earth Day programs and have long been involved in supporting the Broome County recycling program.

Jim Taft

A retiree, and Binghamton resident, I'm a Broome County native who after 27 years in Washington State returned 1996 with wife, 2 boys, and an MA in Social Ecology. Experience includes: private sector (cabinetmaking); nonprofits (as staff and director); and government (criminal justice). I host, with my partner, international students (12 and counting). I have served 6 years on Susquehanna Group ExCom, serve as Delegate to Atlantic Chapter, and edit the Group's newsletter. Considerable grant writing experience helps me (1) assess and characterize the relevance and feasibility of organizational efforts, and (2) budget and find financial support for them.

Valdi Weiderpass

I have dedicated my love of nature, aided by a B.S. in Chemical Engineering and A.S. in Industrial Technology with Electrical Emphasis, along with my experience, to help inform people about the natural world, to improve environmental policies; and try to Save a Habitable Climate. I testified in hearings and/or submitted comments regarding: opposing privatization of Joint Sewage Treatment Plant; an audit there by entity with conflict of interest; permit renewals for Greenidge cryptocurrency gas-fired power plant; other fossil fuel projects; supporting a Wind Farm including advocating protecting eagles with automated vision system; a community solar farm; a grid-scale energy storage project. I served on Representative Brindisi's Environmental Advisory Panel and am current Chair of Susquehanna Group. My house gets electricity from a community solar farm. I recently gave a presentation on Climate Change. If elected, I will continue for a 4th ExCom term.

Susquehanna Group
 (All of Broome, & most of Chenango,
 Delaware, Otsego, Tioga Counties)

Chair	*Valdi Weiderpass
Vice Chair	*Scott Lauffer
Secretary	*Karen Boba
Treasurer	*Joan Lettis
Conservation Co-Chairs	*Douglas Gausman
	*Mary Cronk
Political Chair	<i>open</i>
Chapter Delegate	*Jim Taft
Alt. Chapter Delegate	*Joann Lettis
Newsletter Editor	*Jim Taft
Membership Chair	*Chris Harasta
Outings Chair	*Chris Harasta
Webmaster	*Chris Harasta

To become a candidate for the Susquehanna Group's Executive Committee, mail by November 1, 2022 a candidate statement of 150 words or less to:

Susquehanna Group
 PO Box 572
 Endicott NY 13760

The Nominating Committee will create a slate of candidates, and ballots will be mailed with the December 2022 *Sierran*.

COMING EVENTS

Dear Reader – Club meetings during the pandemic continue online. To join any Coming Event use the Zoom app or website.

January 18, 2022, 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 **Gregory Kilmer**, Broome County Commissioner of Public Transportation, will give a presentation on Electric Vehicles, including an overview of electrification of Broome County Public Transit.



February 15, 2022, 7:30pm, Zoom 475 123 3928 **Mark Lowery**, Assistant Director, Office of Climate Change, NY State DEC, will give a presentation on Climate Change adaptation and resilience, and give an overview of the Climate Action Council's Scoping Plan.

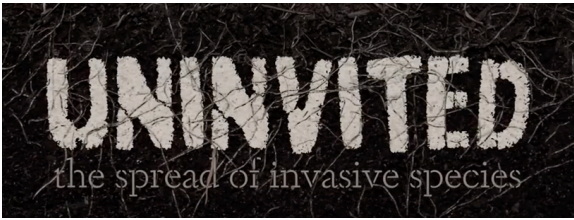
For more info on the Climate Action Council, see: <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Action-Council>. Mark Lowery wrote the chapter on adaptation/resilience. The Council's proposed Scoping Plan will help guide New York State in policy formation to meet its clean-energy and climate-change-related goals. There will be a public comment period on the proposed plan that will extend weeks beyond the time he gives the presentation to our Group so we will have opportunities to submit informed comments to NY State on the plan.



BALLOT for ExCom Members

Indicate your **5** votes and mail this ballot to Susquehanna Group, PO Box 572, Endicott NY 13760 by 1/15/2022

<input type="checkbox"/> Mary Cronk	<input type="checkbox"/> Teresa Farrell	<input type="checkbox"/> Christina Fuller
<input type="checkbox"/> Doug Gausman	<input type="checkbox"/> Jim Taft	<input type="checkbox"/> Valdi Weiderpass

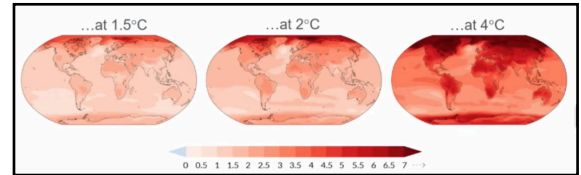


New NYS DEC video: "Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species"

Defining, explaining hazards, identifying current invasives in NY, control and eradication initiatives, roles for citizens. Excellent video can be found by searching on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com) for "Uninvited: The Spread of Invasive Species."

"Climate Change Overview"

On October 19, 2021 Chair Valdi Weiderpass presented to the Susquehanna Group via Zoom a beautifully-researched presentation on climate change. It is available on the Group website <https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/susquehanna>. Click on [Meeting Recordings](#).



TAKE HEED — The *Susquehanna Sierran* publishes 4 times per year. Printing and mailing for over 1000 local members draws heavily on financial reserves. Therefore members are notified by email when the *Sierran*, except for December issues, is posted on the Group website (allowing color & web links). So! For email delivery please take a moment and send your email address to membership.services@sierraclub.org



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Endicott NY 13760

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