



**SIERRA
CLUB**

Susquehanna Group Overview

by Valdi Weiderpass

Sierra Club (overall, beginning with national level)

Mission Statement:

- To **explore, enjoy, and protect** the wild places of the earth;
- To practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources;
- To educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

Run mostly by volunteers, but there is some paid staff at regional and national level.

Sierra Club is unusual for an environmental group in that members **elect leaders** for

- local groups
- chapters (regional level), our Atlantic Chapter covers New York State
- national level

SUSQUEHANNA GROUP

- **Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club** covers Broome, Chenango, and Delaware counties, as well as parts of Tioga and Otsego counties, in New York State.
- About 1,000 members in our local group
(national: 3 million members, \$500 million budget)
- Our **monthly meetings** are held on Third Tuesday of the month-(except July & August), at 7:30 pm, usually at the Central United Methodist Church, 17 Nanticoke Ave, Endicott, NY. (via Zoom during pandemic)
Meetings feature a subject matter expert giving a talk on topics such as wildlife, climate change, an interesting outdoor area, EVs, renewable energy, etc.
(General public is welcome at meetings. You don't have to be a member but it would be nice if you become a member.)
- Facebook page: 'Susquehanna Group of the Sierra Club'
Website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/susquehanna>

Susquehanna Group recent efforts:

- Confluence Park pollinator garden planting and ongoing care



Susquehanna Group recent efforts (continued):

- Argonne Avenue clean up in Endwell; 27 tires, mattress, broken toilet, linoleum, trash



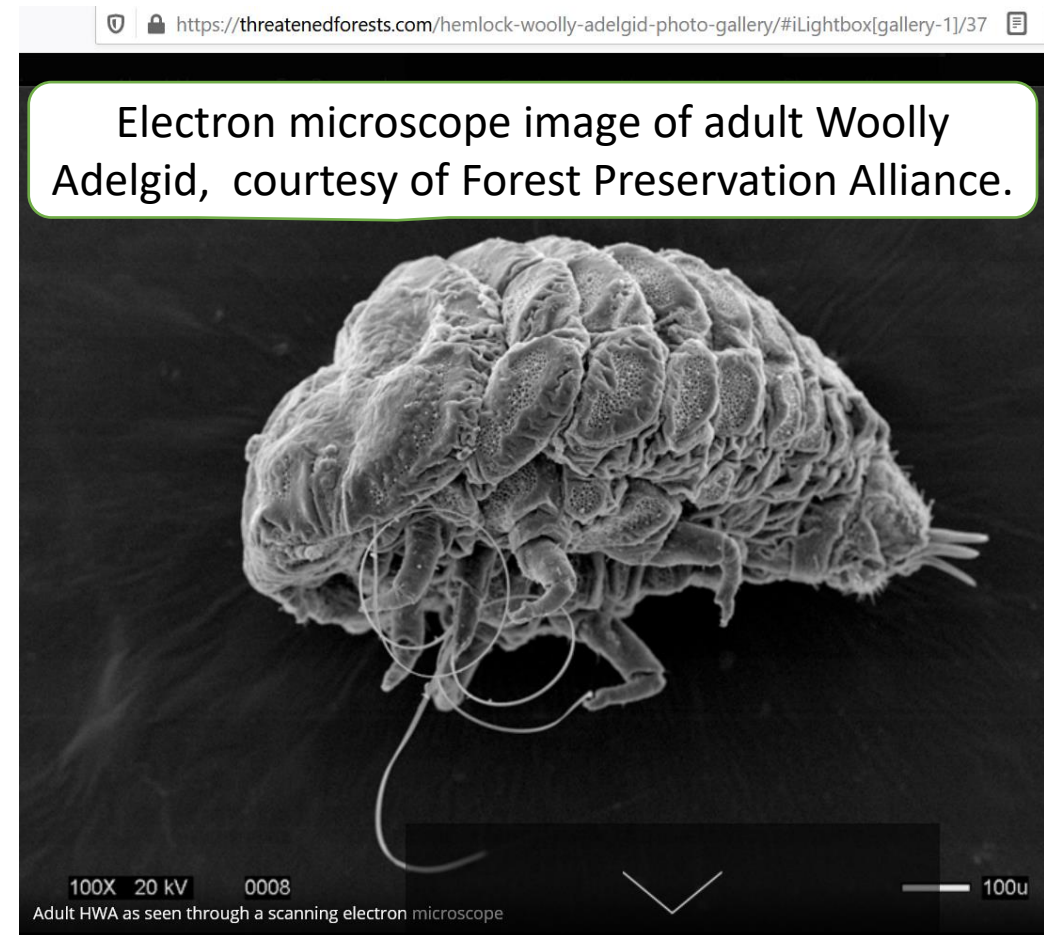
Susquehanna Group recent efforts (continued):

- Helped save hemlock trees in key areas from attack by Woolly Adelgid invasive insects



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation:
white fuzzy balls under branches.

*Hemlock woolly adelgid, Binghamton southside,
2020 photo: J Taft*



Electron microscope image of adult Woolly
Adelgid, courtesy of Forest Preservation Alliance.

100X 20 kV 0008
Adult HWA as seen through a scanning electron microscope

100u

Susquehanna Group recent efforts (continued):

- Trips & outings. (Gifford Pinchot home, farms, nature walks, picnic)

D.C. People's Climate March 4/29/17

Stream focused nature outing 7/2018



Susquehanna Group recent efforts (continued):

- 'Southern Tier Goes Green' Calendar w/ other groups (see our website below)

Southern Tier Goes Green!

Today April 2021

Print Week Month Agenda


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3
				6pm Amplify Envirc	11am Eggstravagar	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			6pm Seed Saving f	12pm Sustainable C		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
						10am Gardening 10
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	5pm Fire & Flood S 6pm Book Discussi	6pm Introduction to 7:30pm Upstream T	10am Earth Day Cle	3pm Biodiversity at		9am Earth Day Birc 10am Virtual Earth
25	26	27	28	29	30	May 1
				11am Recycle Right		1st Annual Garlic 10am Invasive Plan

Events shown in time zone: Eastern Time - New York

Google Calendar

<https://www.sierraclub.org/atlantic/susquehanna/events>

Susquehanna Group recent efforts (continued):

- Send questionnaires & **endorse candidates** focused on environment
- Support Complete Streets program; pedestrian, disabled, bicycle, shade
- Water Sentinels: collect baseline data on conductivity & suspended particulates in all Southern Tier streams
- Plastic bag ban and paper bag fee (our group and chapter)
- **Earth Fest** participation 
- Advocate for **Climate Smart Communities**: NY State program, grants
- Advocate for **Clean Energy Communities**: NYSERDA prgrm, 4/10, grants



Susquehanna Group recent efforts, continued

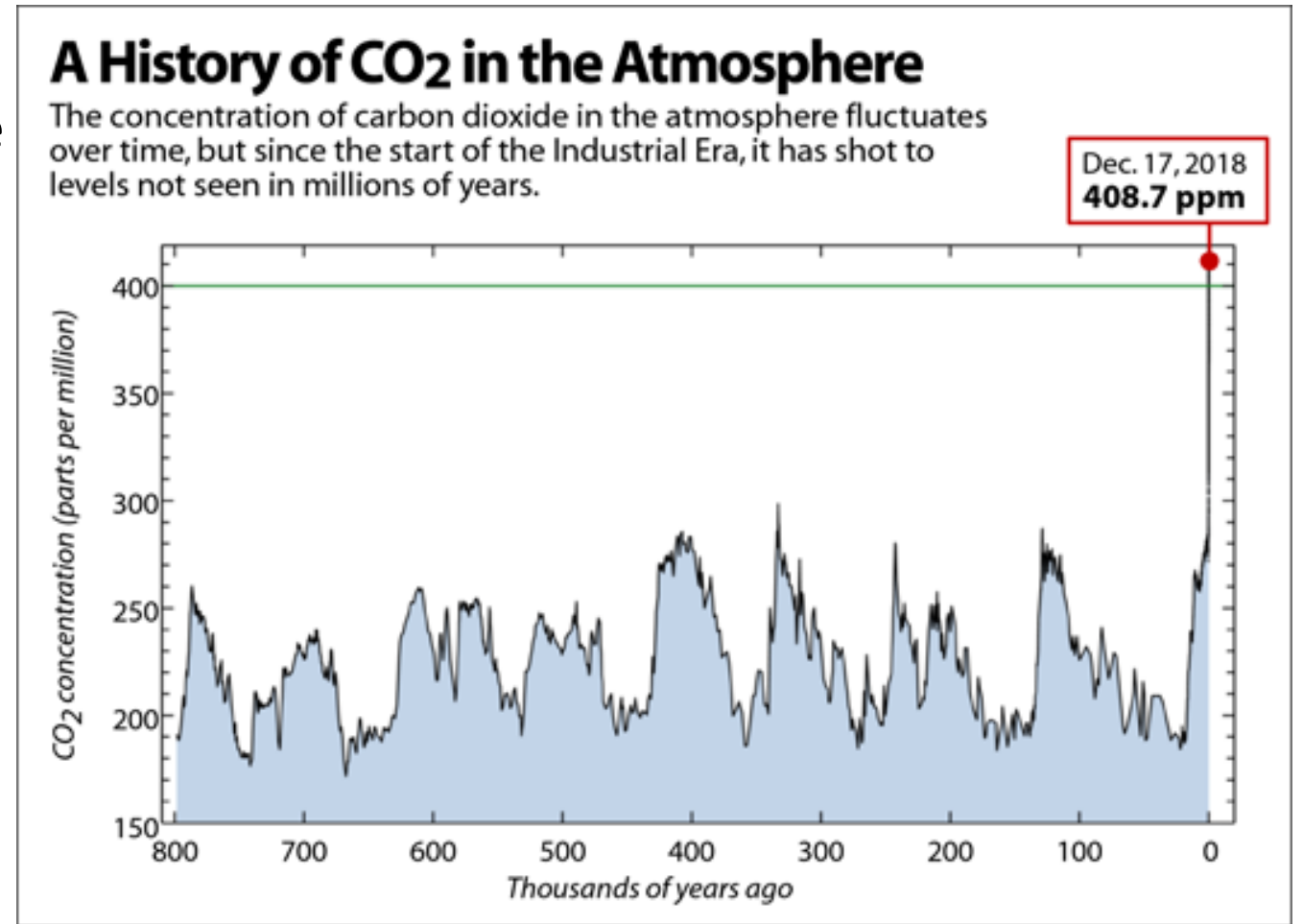
- Promote Electric Vehicles and Zero Emission Bus (battery powered) for Broome County via events and letters of support
- Participated in protests locally, Albany & in D.C. on Climate Change, against fracking (NY ban became law 4/2021), against fossil fuel infrastructure expansion (pipelines, compressor stations, transport of LNG & compressed Natural Gas by trains & trucks)
- Lobby elected officials including in NY State Senate & Assembly

Albany lobby day for CLCPA
6/1/2016 (enacted 6/2019)



CLIMATE CHANGE is biggest threat – big risk of unknown

- CO₂ conc. in atmosphere exceeded 415 ppm on 5/11/2019! (420 on 5/1/2021)
This high a level of CO₂ has not happened in over 3 million years!
This was over 1 million years before human ancestors (Homo Erectus) stood upright and 2.8 million years before modern humans (Homo Sapiens) appeared.
This was during the Pliocene age and sea levels were more than 15 feet higher then!
(200 ft higher during part of it!)

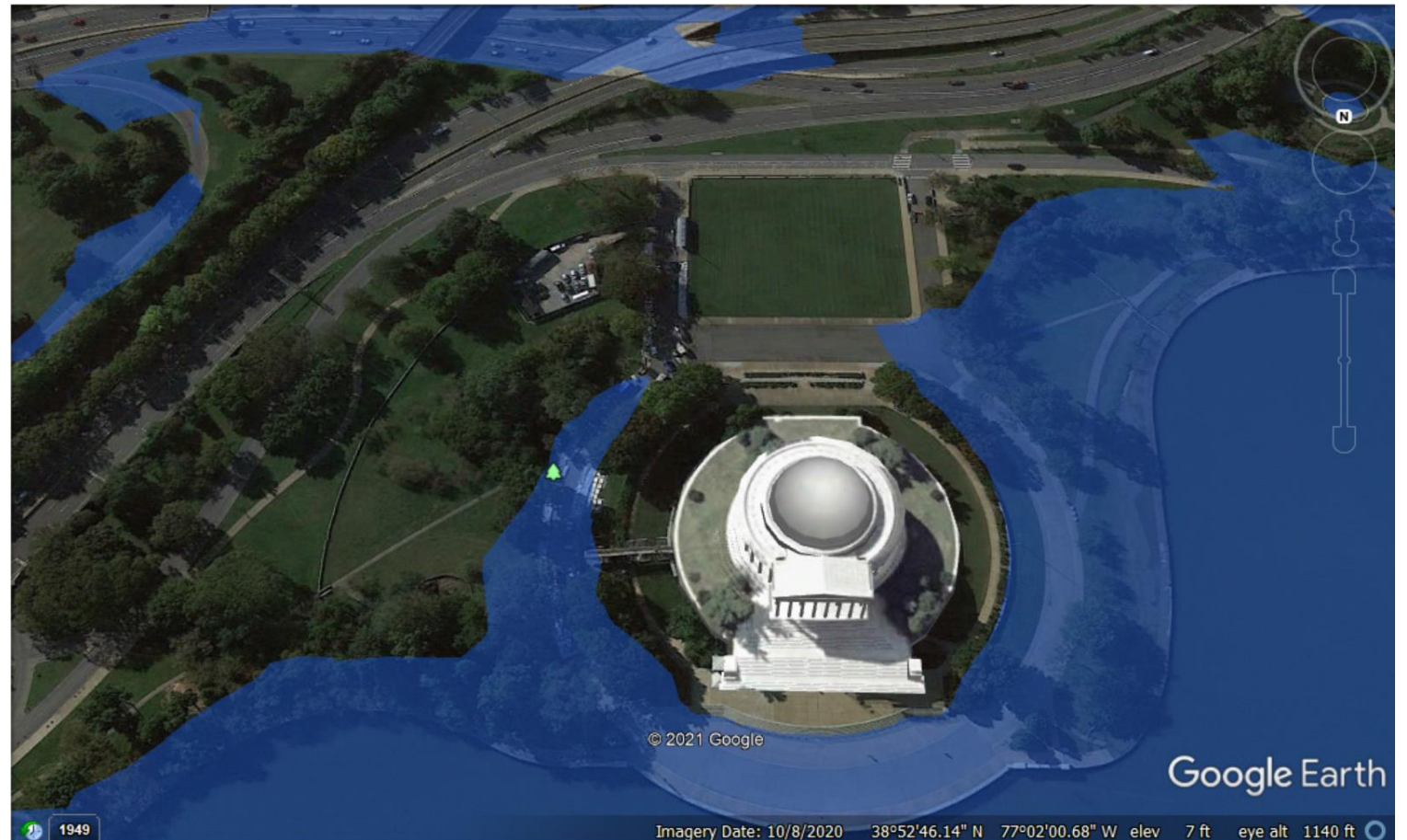


SOURCES: Scripps Institution of Oceanography

InsideClimate News

CLIMATE CHANGE is biggest threat – big risk of unknown

- International study published May 20, 2019, (in Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences): there is a 1 in 20 (5%) chance that sea level will rise over 7.5 feet by the year 2100, if emissions mostly unchecked, then 5°C rise!
 - area 3x size of California inundated.
 - would be 200 million climate refugees.
(1 million refugees migrated to Europe from Syrian crisis, partly due to climate change)
 - Washington, D.C., NY City, London, Shanghai, as well as about a quarter of Bangla Desh would be threatened with being unlivable.



CLIMATE CHANGE is biggest threat – big risk of unknown

- 10/2018 IPCC warned:
need to cut greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 &
need to get to 'net zero by 2050' to try to limit warming to 1.5°C!



- 4/2021: Burning fossil fuels kills 8.7 million people worldwide &
350,000 in USA, per study by Harvard & three British universities!



- **Many young people are afraid to have children
because of the threat of climate change!**







SIERRA CLUB supports helpful ideas, YOU can too!

- **BU student Climate Forum with Rep. Brindisi 4/29/2019 – led by GROW (Generation Repairing Our World) – led to Climate Crisis Working Group to advise him**
– Susquehanna Group supported this. (Rep. Tenney not interested in Climate Change.)
- **Climate Jobs New York**; coalition of labor unions w plan to transition NY to a green economy that helps preserve a habitable climate!
 - supported by labor and 30 environmental groups including Sierra Club
 - centerpiece; building offshore wind turbines to power 6 million homes, create >10,000 jobs
- **Climate Leadership & Community Protection Act (CLCPA)** NY law enacted 7/18/2019; set NY goals; 70% of electricity from renewables by 2030,
100% carbon-free electricity by 2040.
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions in NY by 85% from 1990 levels by 2050.
- **Climate & Community Investment Act (CCIA)** is proposed to impose carbon fee in NY to fund transition to green economy
- **Green New Deal** US Congress resolution – guidelines for a just transition to renewables (- inspired the **THRIVE act being written in Senate**)

SIERRA CLUB supports helpful ideas.

😊 Things YOU can do!

- **Switch your electricity supply** to a company providing community shared solar 
 - **save 10%** off of your electricity supply & delivery charges 
 - speed the transition to renewable energy to help save a habitable climate
- **Insulate, weatherize, switch to LED lights to save energy and money!**
- **Buy an electric vehicle** next time you need a new vehicle.  
- **Get involved:** phone calls, letters, e-mails, protest, political campaigns, volunteer with groups