



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

SUSTAINABLE PUBLISHING FORUM

Sierra Club Iroquois Group will sponsor a Free Public Forum on

Wednesday, September 24, 2008, from 7:30 to 9 PM

University United Methodist Church
1085 E. Genesee Street, Syracuse

GREEN TRENDS: SUSTAINABILITY IN THE PAPER AND PRINTING INDUSTRIES

If you feel that newsletters and other organizational publications waste too many resources, learn about the alternatives at *Green Trends: Sustainability in the Paper and Printing Industries*. In January 2008, the Sierra Club Iroquois Group passed a resolution that set a goal of 100% recycled, 100% post consumer content paper, processed chlorine-free with vegetable based inks by 2009, for our newsletter and other printed materials. Groups, institutions or businesses with similar interests and goals will be interested in this forum.

Our three speakers will look at the issues from different perspectives and discuss sustainable paper and printing options, as well as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification.

- **Tony Harris is Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Monroe Litho.**
- **Jean Sharkey is Sales Representative at RIS the paper house.**
- **Melanie Stopyra is Director of Purchasing and Business Operations for the Office of Publications at Syracuse University.**

Table space will be provided for those interested in displaying publications, paper or printing samples.

Questions: Tasha tasha.cooper@gmail.com, Martha 492-4745

Free and Open to the Public

DID YOU MISS THIS? RAM'S GULCH

Sometimes endangered species survive only because nobody knows where there are. So it was with mixed feelings that Sierra Club scheduled a walk to Ram's Gulch. We wanted to point out the special conditions that the Hart's Tongue Fern requires but didn't want anybody returning with their friends. So we got lost for an hour before

Continued page 2 col 1

CORPORATE CHALLENGE THANKS VOLUNTEERS

The weather was perfect on June 24, as Sierra Club and Boy Scouts prepared to pick up and sort bottles, cans and cardboard at the Corporate Challenge Race. Volunteers criss-crossed Onondaga Lake Park, pulling containers from the recycling boxes and may have worked off as many calories as the racers.

Knowing that this community-service event could teach the public how to recycle in public places was rewarding, as was the enthusiastic thank-you letter from the event sponsor. Three Cheers to Lisa Daly and her workers!

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACT INFO

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IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
MARCH, JUNE, SEPTEMBER, & DECEMBER.
SUBMIT ARTICLES BY THE 15TH OF THE
PRECEDING MONTH:
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM

Ram's Gulch from page 1

reaching the magical place where tufa gave evidence to the lime content of the damp soil, mist hung over a rill, and the fern nestled, hidden between rocks halfway up the hillside. If you can duplicate these conditions, you can grow Hart's Tongue Fern in your garden.

LISA'S CONVENTION BLOG

It's naïve to believe that convention delegates with environmental credentials will garner clout for the movement, but there's no denying the feeling of satisfaction that having a local Sierra Club member at the event can bring. Our own Lisa Daly was a delegate at the Democratic Convention in Denver. This instructive information is gleaned from her detailed blog. Read Lisa's entire blog at <http://syracuseforobama.blogspot.com/>. Editor.

HOW TO BECOME A DELEGATE:

Having been involved in campaigns off and on for many years, I wondered about this question myself. As recently as a year ago, I still did not know anything other than that every four years I had the opportunity to vote for delegates when I voted in the Democratic primary, and it was almost entirely for people, of whom I had never heard... Very early on in the campaign I started to ask people who I thought would know, how might I become a delegate for Senator Obama? Those who knew something about the process told me two things: first, "they will take elected officials over organizers every time," and second, "If you actually want to go, you need to back the person who will win - i.e., Senator Clinton." To this I politely replied that I did not want to be a delegate in the abstract, I wanted to be a delegate for Senator Obama...

One of the arcane bits of work that needs to be done before a Presidential primary in New York State is petitioning to get your candidate on the ballot. In order to get this done, the campaign must mobilize volunteers in every congressional district to go out and get at least 500 valid signatures from registered Democrats only. This was done in November of '07, and Ken Preston and I helped lead that effort in the 25th Congressional District, with both of our groups helping some nearby districts as well. ...

There were several criteria the campaign used to select delegates: by state law the delegate slate had to be balanced by gender, and the Democratic Party asked that each slate reflect the diversity of the area and the party. In addition to that, people who are well known and well regarded are thought

to attract more votes to a candidate, by virtue of having their name on the same line as a supporter. This is why elected officials are often chosen - they presumably have enough supporters out there to make a difference. ...

So, when we went to pass petitions to get Senator Obama on the ballot in New York, those petitions also had each of our names on it as delegates. Having successfully gotten enough signatures, our five names were placed on the ballot next to Senator Obama's. I asked everyone I knew, who I thought might be able to vote in the primary, to consider voting for me as a delegate, and many of them told me that they had (thank you!).

When the voting was over, Senator Obama had won enough of the vote in our district to earn two of the five delegates from this area. I, and everyone else on the ballot, had to wait almost two full weeks to know which ones they would be. (The highest vote-getting female and the highest vote-getting male for each candidate get picked first, but we didn't know who that would be.)

Lisa describes the climax of the convention.

ROLL CALL OF STATES

The anticipation built as each state called out its votes, and some states announced unanimous votes for Senator Obama, which caused a great cheer to go up. When we got to New York, and Speaker Silver began the litaney, "The great state of New York, home of..." a murmur went up through the crowd. I could not see what everyone was looking at until the big screen showed Senator Clinton working her way toward the delegation and Speaker Silver. As she moved through the crowd we wondered what she was going to do? Then in dramatic fashion, she took over the microphone and moved that all the votes be counted, but that Senator Obama be made the nominee by acclamation. The cheering was deafening, and whether due to a sense of the significance of this gesture, the realization that at long last it was official, or just plain sleep deprivation, I, and many around me were moved to tears.

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

Seems like Labor Day cut short a great summer. Let's not have it so early next year.

My back yard report: it needs a lot of work! I do not think it qualifies as a wildflower prairie but it sure is wild. My only critter report is that there are no squirrels. Where are they? ...not even at my abundantly filled bird feeders. I hope they are only on vacation and will return soon. I miss the battle of wits we have each year.

I hope you are reveling in the swell of "Green" events that are taking place in Central New York. We should take advantage of them whenever possible.

Tasha Cooper has been planning our September 24 program for a long time. I hope you will be there. If each of us, no matter how far away, gets one more organization to take the sustainable-paper pledge we can really make a difference in saving trees and resources.

Thanks for all you do.

For the earth and all the critters,
Martha Loew, Chair

READING LIST

BOTTLEMANIA

REVIEW BY MARTHA LOEW

Bottlemania: How Water Went on Sale and Why We Bought It by Elizabeth Royte, Bloomsbury 2008.

This book, written with humor and good documentation, tells how bottled water became one of the great commercial coups of American and Swiss capitalism. Water has gone from a necessity to a fashion statement and an extravagant demonstration of flagrant excess.

Sales of bottled water have surpassed those of milk and beer. Soft drinks are still number one, but water is a close second. In 20 years its per capita consumption has risen from 5 gallons to 27 gallons.

This pointless fad has led to threatened water tables and degraded land. It may ultimately threaten our public water supply as fewer people see the need to support a public system that must remain available to all.

How can the Green movement accept a business that produces 40 billion discarded plastic bottles a year? The author feels, as the world runs out of water, that multinational corporations must not own and profit from "our" water.

TROPICAL FORESTS

It's always nice to find one of our own Iroquois Group members in print with a book that's available in popular bookstores. Bernard A. Marcus has written *Tropical Forests* (Jones & Bartlett, ISBN13: 978-0-7637-5434-1), the first in a series on ecosystems and biomes. The book describes interactions of tropical plants and animals in an evolutionary context. It provides an accurate, easy to read, and easy to understand account of an important ecosystem that is often romanticized or for which information is available only in journals.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club 2009 Calendars



Mail Order — Make checks payable to Sierra Club

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Save More — Sierra Club Calendars will be available at Sierra Club events for \$11 each

FALL EVENTS

Sierra Club Indoor and Outdoor events are all **educational or service programs** that encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet. They are always **free and open to everybody**.

Updates, cancellations and information at newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois or 492-4745.

ExCom meetings — open to Sierra members only — October 15, November 12, December 10 at 7:15 PM at 128 Buffington Rd., Syracuse.

INDOORS

PUBLISH GREEN — SEPTEMBER 24

Described on front page.

NATURE CONSERVANCY — OCTOBER 6

Take a *Vitruval Tour of CNY Nature Conservancy* with Jim Howe, CNY director, at 10:30 AM at the Cavalry Club in Manlius. Reservation and info: 682-7333. Onondaga Garden Club.

BHUTAN TRAVELS — OCTOBER 29

Rhea and Danny Jezer will show slides and share insights — including a meeting with Secretary of Homeland — from their trip to Bhutan. Learn how this tiny Himalayan kingdom can harness enough hydro-power for 100% of its needs with excess to export to India. 727-0123.

GO GREEN EXPO — NOVEMBER 8-9

Peruse the exhibits and seminars at the **New York Going Green Expo**, running all weekend at the OnCenter in Syracuse. The Results Group: 425-8741

GREEN HOLIDAYS — NOVEMBER 19

Green the Holidays: Celebrate with the Planet in Mind with Marth Loew of Sierra Club. Liverpool Library Carmen Room at 7 PM. 475-0310 X 153.

YELLOWSTONE — DECEMBER 3

Martin Sage will show slides of hauntingly beautiful Yellowstone National Park and explain the importance and underground mysteries of the largest and least disturbed geyser basin left in the world.

OUTDOORS

NATIVE PLANT SALE — SEPT 20

Learn about, donate and buy local native plants. 401 Parsons Drive, Syracuse, 10 AM to noon. Habitat Gardening Club. Janet 487-5742

OLD GROWTH FOREST — OCTOBER 5

Meet at 2 PM in Green Lakes State Park, rain or shine, to learn about an old growth forest and how it differs from those that have been logged. This one features some of the largest yellow poplars and eastern hemlocks — about 300 years old — in the northeastern United States.

Enter the park from the Rte 5, near Fayetteville, N.Y. Park just inside the golf course parking lot. Look for sierra club sign. We'll walk, short and easy, to the old-growth forest trail.

MASON HILL — NOVEMBER 9

Join us at 2:00PM at Mason Hill, a 2005 STC acquisition. We will be guided by the property donor and will learn about a different forest type from that of other hikes. The hike starts at a stream ravine and mounts uphill to a rocky ridge. There is a beautiful wooded ravine and pristine stream. There will be different routes for hiking and family walking.

From Jamesville head South on Apulia Rd. about 8 miles. Right on Eager Rd. Third house on the right says "Earle/2886" on mailbox. Park in the lot to the left of the house driveway.

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

If you live outside the Syracuse metro region, you probably feel left out of most of our activities. We'd like to give you an opportunity to meet other Sierra members in your area.

The Iroquois Group would like know who might be willing to Adopt a Highway on Sierra Club's behalf. Learn about this project on the web: www.sierraclub.org/adoptahighway and then contact Tasha (see page 2).

Although public service can be satisfying, cleaning up other people's mess isn't a delightful way to spend an afternoon. But combine it with a hike, picnic or visit to a coffee shop to meet and chat with fellow lovers of beautiful central NY and you have a pleasant social event.



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