2016 Election Results: Big Oil is In - Science is Out!

As a candidate, the president-elect was hard to comprehend. Especially since he communicated in 140-character tweets. We all have heard his pronouncement that global warming was a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese. But in New York Times articles he conceded that burning fossil fuels may have affected climate change. As a candidate we knew he was speaking to his base’s base prejudices, but would he really choose such radical right appointees to guide us through the next four (I emphasize four) years? His nominations have gone beyond our worse fears!

It is as though he has attempted to offend every liberal organization in the United States! His appointments have been an affront to women’s rights, immigrants, and decidedly a slap in the face to all environmental groups. The list of offenses grows every news day. A Climate Change denier as head of the Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Governor Perry as head of the Department of Energy. How many remember the Governor’s campaign ending with his, “there are three federal departments I would close.” He listed Education, Commerce, but could not recollect the third. It was actually that of Energy to which important post Trump has nominated the dull Texas poliDco. The Energy Department -- specifically the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) -- is responsible for ensuring the integrity and safety of the nation’s nuclear weapons, advancing nuclear nonproliferation and promoting international nuclear safety. The NNSA also works with industry partners to model risks to privately owned U.S. nuclear facilities from cyber attacks, and to support climate change adaptation efforts. The current head of the Department of Energy is Dr. Ernest Moniz, a former Professor of Physics at MIT. Four out of the last five heads of the Department of Energy were world-renowned and/or Nobel Prize-winning scientists with a deep understanding of physics and nuclear weapons. Rick Perry’s last job was as a contestant on Dancing with the Stars.

And the CEO of Exxon for Secretary of State! This is a slap on both cheeks to any and all environmentalists. Those struggling to blow against the political winds of Big Oil are now confronted with the attack on Green anything and our country walking away from climate change agreements. We must rally our opposition, stomp our feet in anger, shout in the halls of representation.

Join us January 29th for our Winter Party. We can commiserate. We can strategize and enjoy a good meal and presentation! (Details on the Winter Party on right.) by Ernest Boyd
Executive Committee Nominee Statements

There are four seats on the executive committee to fill this year. Please review the nomination statements and vote for up to four nominees. The ballot on page three has mailing instructions.

Willem van den Berg

My name is Willem, the Dutch form of William; my friends call me Bill. I was born in 1946 in a suburb of New York City, where I lived for 18 years. Since then I have lived in Connecticut, North Carolina, and, since 1973, Pennsylvania. I have a PhD in biophysics but have mostly taught basic physics as a career. In 2007 I retired from teaching physics at State College Area High School.

I love windsurfing and moved to Howard in 2007 to be near Sayers Lake. Since 2010 I (as the “Better World Windsurfing School”) have given introductory windsurfing lessons to raise money for worthy organizations like the Sierra Club, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, Amnesty International, National Wildlife Federation, WPSU, Doctors without Borders, the American Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund, the Howard Fire Company, and many others (selected by my clients). I don’t accept money; the fees go directly to the beneficiary organization. I also enjoy cross-country skiing, hiking, paddling when there’s no wind, hiking, and photography and videography.

I’m a Sierra Club life member and have been a member since probably the 1970’s. You can find me on Facebook under my real name.

Kat Alden

Kat Alden has been an active member of The Moshannon Group Sierra Club since 2008 when she volunteered as Program Chair. She feels passionate about Sierra Club’s invective to Explore, Enjoy and Protect our precious Earth. As a certified teacher she facilitated exploration by sharing her love of nature in and out of the classroom, also founding and developing outdoor programs through One World Environmental Center in Spring Mills. As a Master Gardener with the pollinator program, she participates in habitat restoration. An avid hiker, she enjoys trails and forests and hopes to contribute to their protection. As a land owner, committed to protection she put her property in an easement with ClearWater Conservancy. Kat has been acting as the Board Member Program Committee Chair and hopes to continue to serve in this capacity.

Sean Hawk

Sean is a long time member of the Sierra Club and a founding member of Pennsylvania’s Friends of the Wilds, a group dedicated to preserving the pristine rural nature of the Pennsylvania Wilds region. He considers it an honor to serve on the current Excomm and to have collaborated with the Moshannon Group to organize well-attended showings of Groundswell Rising in Ridgway and St. Mary’s, PA. It was his rare pleasure to emcee last year’s Bannff Mountain Film Festival in State College. Sean is a coalition builder and is currently teamed up with members of the Crow Creek Sioux tribe to deliver firewood and other supplies to water protectors at Standing Rock. He hails from New York where he cut his teeth pounding the pavement as a young Greenpeace canvasser, and built props and sets for movies, theater and TV. He is the creator of the simplysitting meditation seat and now makes a home in Elk County, PA where he loves paddling and fly-fishing the streams, trail running, skateboarding, hiking, biking and camping with his daughter Luna and his partner Stephanie.

Doug Mason

Doug Mason was born in Philadelphia in 1950. He served in the U.S. Air Force (including Vietnam Theater of War) and used the G.I. Bill to attend college. I went to Delaware Valley University for a B.Sc. in Agronomy, and worked first as a soil conservationist in the U.S.D.A. Natural Resources & Conservation Service, and then as a soil scientist for the PA Dept. of Environmental Protection. I went to grad school at Penn State (worked on a M. Ag. in Agronomy) and Penn (Ph.D. in the Energy Management & Policy program, Appropriate Technology & Energy Management for Development). (continued on page three)
********Ballot********

Vote by placing a checkmark next to up to three nominees and return this ballot concerning the governing Executive Committee of the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club. Ballots should be received by January 31, 2017. Mail to Elections, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804

___ Kat Alden
___ Doug Mason
___ Willem van den Berg
___ Sean Hawk
___ Johan Zwart

______________________________________________________________ write in

Note: For verification purposes your mailing label should remain attached on the opposite side. You may black out your name and address on the label, but not the zip code. If joint membership two sets of checks are permitted.

Nomination Statements Continued

Doug Mason continued

The latter part of my career was in the non-profit arena, most notably with the National Center for Appropriate Technology program, Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas, in Memphis, and the Hoosier Environmental Council in Indianapolis. I also worked for peace & social justice NGOs in Springfield, MO, and Cleveland, and was an emergency responder (chemical spills, ad nauseam) for the Indiana DEP. I have been politically active since age 14, most recently with MoveOn and the Centre County Green Party. I'm also a freelance journalist who wrote for "Voices of Central PA" and will soon be penning op-eds (on planetary boundaries, etc.) for the Centre Daily Times. My vision for Moshannon is even greater focus on climate change and such environmentally degrading concomitants as deforestation, soil erosion and nutrient loss, toxic waste accumulation, and biodiversity shrinkage. I also want to make the message more personal by pointing out regionally observable impacts of global warming, thus hopefully inspiring greater activism on this and other environmental issues.

Johan Zwart

Born 1960 in the Netherlands, moved to the USA in 1993 and have lived in state College all this time. In 1993 I came to the USA to work as Mechanical and Electronical Engineer for a Dutch Nuclear Power plant Inspection company, NUSON, that developed robot ultrasonic technology to inspect welds in steam generator tubing.

In 1996 I started my own company ZW-Art Mechatronics that builds inspection equipment for aircraft turbine engines. www.zw-art.com

I married Smita in 2004 who came from India to do do her Ph. D. in mechanical engineering at PSU. We live downtown State College with two children, dog and chickens. We drove diesel vehicles fueled by used restaurant fryer oil. We installed 7 KW battery backup solar PV and vacuum tube domestic hot water. Also we installed floor heat and solar collectors on our barn / shop behind our house. Currently we drive DIY converted electric vehicles for general transportation.

In 2013 Smita and I were instrumental in stopping a 10" high pressure natural gas pipe line thru downtown State College for the PSU power plant. In 2015 we became involved with the Toll Brothers student development at White hall road / Blue Course drive that potentially threatens the drinking water wells of SC area. This organization NVWC has won its first law case against the Toll Brothers / Ferguson Township with support from the Sierra Club.

Additional background:
As an 18 year old I became very interested in alternative energy and built several small scale windmills and solar collectors. I was anti-nuclear and demonstrated against nukes while I was in the mandatory Dutch army. I traveled around Europe and at age 27 got a job in the nuclear industry to see the inside. I became one of the lead research engineers for NUCON in Amsterdam. In 1993 NUCON asked me for an expatriate job at NUSON in the USA.
If you need more info I can be reached at: zwart.johan@gmail.com
The Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour is coming to town again!!

**WHEN:** April 14 and 15, 2017

**WHERE:** THE State Theatre, State College PA

Thanks to the local support from businesses like Appalachian Outdoors, Freeze Thaw Bicycles, Nature’s Pantry, Andrew Shubin and many others, our 2015 event was a sellout success. Of course, we are always hoping to make each year even better.

Do you have ideas and some energy to share? We could not pull off an event of this magnitude without the hard work of volunteers for approaching sponsors, planning, promotion, and logistical support. Planning for the 2016 show will begin in December of 2015. If you’d be willing to help out, please contact Ron Johnson at BanffStateCollege@hotmail.com. **There’s lots of things you can do to help!!**

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**Moshannon Group Directory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair, Tabling, Newsletter</td>
<td>*Ernest Boyd</td>
<td>861-2649</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ernestcboyd@gmail.com">ernestcboyd@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice Chair Membership</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer, Global Warming</td>
<td>Ron Johnson</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:greenbow11@hotmail.com">greenbow11@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary, Political Chapter Delegate</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:biltann@verizon.net">biltann@verizon.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Sean Hawk</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>*Katherine Alden</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation chair</td>
<td>Gary Thornbloom</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:bearknob@verizon.net">bearknob@verizon.net</a></td>
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All phone numbers listed above are area code 814 unless noted otherwise.