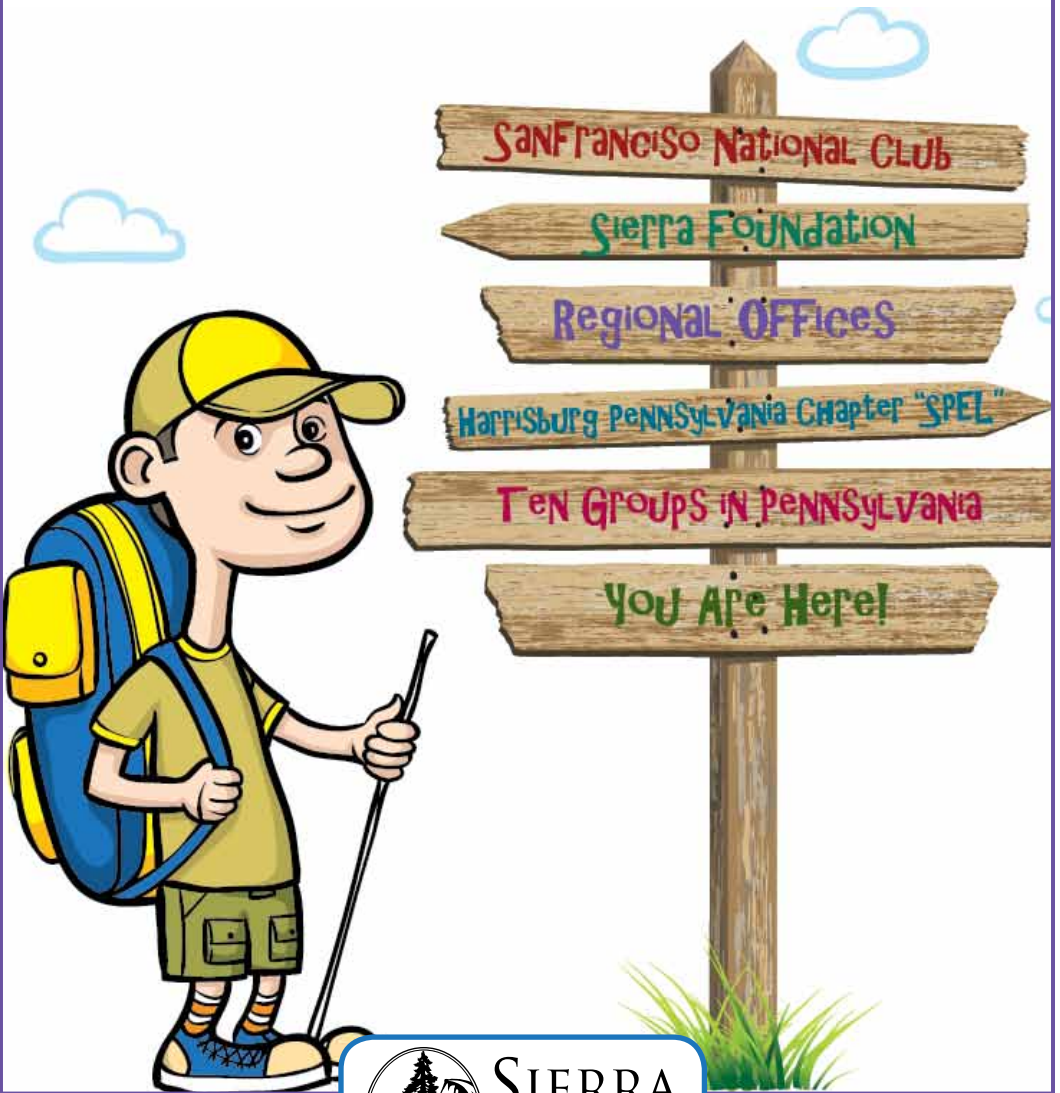


TheSylvanian

Spring 2011

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

Orienteering through the Sierra Club



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

From The Editors

This is an interesting time. The organized efforts of Tea Party advocates have put “conservatives” in office. These are people who want to limit the power of government in almost all ways. And they don’t want to admit that the dogs of Hell they let loose when they limit government are the big polluters, the richest multinational corporations in the world who have no allegiance to this country, and the super powerful who put their profits above all else.

In the name of keeping taxes low, conservatives will take away unemployment benefits, health insurance, and public education from the poor, but preserve tax breaks for the rich. They won’t touch the defense budget, but they will cut the budgets of enforcement agencies and leave air and water unprotected.

We will spend the next four years resisting the stupidity of troglodytes.

However, this issue of *The Sylvania* addresses our environmental issues only indirectly. Instead, we start by exploring our organizational base. We all need to be reminded of what the Sierra Club is, how it works and how we fit in. Only when we find ourselves working together can we put polluters in their place.

In this issue, you will find articles that might seem dull. For some of you, they will seem too basic. We will look at the organization of the Pennsylvania Chapter. We will remind ourselves about our Groups. We will look at our past and how we remember it. But always, we are gathering ourselves for what is to come. Never has it been so important that we pull together. Never has the conservation ethic been as important as it is today.

Help us get ready for an effort unlike any we have faced before.

WENDI TAYLOR AND PHIL COLEMAN
Co-editors of *The Sylvania*



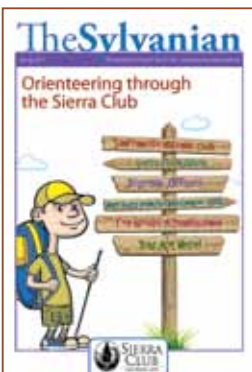
Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

Next Deadline: June 15

Send articles & photographs to: sylvanian@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org.
To mail photos: *Sylvanian*, Sierra Club - PA Chapter, PO Box 606,
Harrisburg, PA 17108



OnTheCover

Orienteering has a history – getting from here to there with compass and topo map. But finding your way around the Sierra Club can be more difficult. With this issue of *The Sylvania*, we try to point the way to the several parts of the Club that might have escaped your attention.

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Contributor deadlines are June 15 (Summer issue), September 15 (Fall issue), December 15 (Winter Issue) and March 15 (Spring issue). Anonymous contributions are not accepted.

SIERRA CLUB 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.

Sierra Club's sexual harassment policy can be found online at <http://mitchell.sierraclub.org/leaders/policies/sexual-harassment.asp> or by contacting the Harrisburg office.

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The View From Harrisburg



CORBETT ADMINISTRATION: CUT GOVERNMENT, REDUCE “FRICTION” FOR BUSINESS, PUT FOX IN CHARGE OF HEN HOUSE

Governor Corbett was sworn in on January 18, amidst protests about the growing problems from poorly-regulated Marcellus Shale natural gas drilling. The Inauguration event, where protests could be heard during the swearing-in ceremony, was clearly a signal that the Governor’s support for expanded natural gas drilling would be controversial from the beginning.

FOX GUARDING HEN HOUSE?

Corbett has nominated C. Alan Walker, as Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED). Walker, CEO / owner of Bradford Coal, one of PA’s largest coal mining companies, is quite controversial. In addition to his mining company, Walker also is part owner of a trucking business and an oil and gas company. Walker has had a number of run-ins with DEP over the years, as a result of significant environmental violations by his mining operations. Walker has contributed \$184,000 to Corbett’s campaign efforts since 2004. Walker was the first cabinet member Corbett selected.

When Governor Corbett presented his proposed 2011-12 state budget on March 8, he announced that he would be granting a sweeping new power to DCED Secretary-nominee Walker. He said that Walker would be given the power to expedite permits in any agency. This has raised serious concerns about the legality of such a move, especially for environmental programs. Many of DEP’s programs require public participation during the permitting process, either as a result of state or federal law. Will the coal mining CEO / DCED Secretary be able to override the regulatory agencies’ decision-making process? Will citizens have recourse, when public health may be at stake?

Governor Corbett has also nominated Michael Krancer to be Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Krancer is less controversial than Walker, having served as a judge on the Environmental Hearing Board (EHB) for a number of years. Krancer has vowed to “make decisions on sound science,” rather than politics. His nomination was approved unanimously by the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, immediately following his nomination hearing.

No DCNR Secretary-nominee has been announced, as we go to press. It has been reported that the position was offered to at least two people who declined. At this time, veteran DCNR employee Cindy Dunn is acting DCNR Secretary.

MARCELLUS SHALE ADVISORY COMMISSION STACKED WITH CRONIES

Corbett also used his budget address to announce the formation of a 30-member Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission, to be headed by Lt. Governor Jim Cawley. The Commission’s membership includes 13 with ties to the gas industry and only four conservation representatives. The 13 Commission members

contributed a total of \$557,000 to Mr. Corbett's political campaigns since 2008 (including C. Alan Walker). Twelve have ties with companies whose executives or political action committees gave another \$562,000 and one is the son of a \$300,000 contributor. Together, that amounts to more than \$1.4 million.

The Commission is to submit a report within 120 days of their first meeting, which is scheduled for late March. Some observers believe that the Commission will be used to stall any efforts to enact badly-needed reforms of oil and gas drilling laws and regulations, and ultimately provide political cover to those who oppose such reforms.

BUDGET DOES NOT INCLUDE SEVERANCE TAX, CALLS FOR MAJOR CUTS IN STATE AGENCIES AND PROGRAMS

Repeating his campaign pledge to not raise taxes, Governor Corbett's proposed budget does not include a Marcellus Shale gas drilling tax, while making sweeping cuts to a wide variety of agencies and programs. Public polls have shown overwhelming support for the drilling industry to pay their fair share, and even several drilling companies have agreed to pay a "fair" tax. A large number of legislators are willing to support a severance tax, including several Republican leaders. Meanwhile several severance tax bills have been introduced in the PA General Assembly. If a severance tax had been adopted when Governor Rendell proposed it for the 2009-10 budget, it is estimated that \$150 million would have been collected to date. That is \$150 million of cuts Governor Corbett would not need to make. Pennsylvania remains the only major gas-producing state that does not tax natural gas production.

STATE FOREST GAS LEASING MORATORIUM BILL INTRODUCED, NO NEW LEASING IN PROPOSED BUDGET

State Representative Greg Vitali has reintroduced his state forest gas leasing moratorium legislation, which had passed the PA House during the previous General Assembly. His new bill, HB 33, has at least 80 cosponsors, including Republicans. The bill has been referred to the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. Meanwhile, Governor Corbett's proposed 2011-12 budget does not call for any additional state forest gas leasing. Currently, of the 2.1 million acre PA state forest system, approximately 700,000 acres are already available to the gas industry. In 2010, Governor Rendell signed an Executive Order establishing a gas leasing moratorium, which Governor Corbett has already said he would rescind. The environmental community has supported the 3-year legislative moratorium, which would also require DCNR to undertake an environmental analysis of the impacts from drilling on land already leased.

Some observers believe that the lack of new leasing in the 2011-12 budget is merely a ploy which would allow pro-drilling legislators to insert a leasing provision in the budget further along in the negotiations, in order to take Corbett off the hook politically. Time will tell.

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Blue/Green Alliance Goes After the Oil and Gas Industry for Taxes

by Wendi Taylor

About 250 protesters crowded into and around the business office of former Governor Tom Ridge in Harrisburg on March 9th. Ridge, who is currently lobbying for the oil and gas industry, wasn't there to receive them. The callers left a message: "We'll be back!"

The protesters, which were comprised of a mix of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) members, the Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, called upon the gas drilling industry to pay a fair share of taxes on the gas being extracted from the Marcellus Shale. Another rally has been scheduled for May 3rd.

Speakers at the rally reminded the group that if the severance tax would have been levied last year as promised, it would have already brought in \$117 million in revenue.

Slick lobbyists, like Ridge, have convinced the Pennsylvania State Legislature and Governor Tom Corbett that the industry should not have to pay a severance tax, like other states levy.

State Senator Daylin Leach (D- Montgomery/Delaware counties) told the crowd that Corbett has pledged to relax restrictions at the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for job creators.

Corbett has promised to give "job creators" a "friction-free process" when dealing with state government. The governor plans to give his appointed Secretary of the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) the ability to expedite permits, when job creation is at stake. DCED Secretary C. Alan Walker is listed as owner or part owner of 13 companies, most of which are coal companies and one is an oil and gas company.

The protesters gathered near the state Capitol and marched through the streets, chanting "No free pass for oil and gas," to let the governor know that they would not quietly go along with his proposed 2011 budget. The budget calls for drastic cuts in education, layoffs of government workers, and more tax breaks for corporations.

Corbett also proposed cutting DEP's budget by \$160 million, which would further reduce the ability of the agency to regulate the oil and gas industry.



from left to right Gary Thornbloom, Jeff Schmidt and Lindsay Delp

SEIU representatives said that working people are always willing to do their fair share but that it was hard to see how the corporations are sharing the pain. Teachers, home healthcare workers, and welfare office staff have not created this problem, SEIU workers said.

Gabe Morgan, Regional Director for SEIU Local 32BJ, took issue with Governor Corbett's concept of "shared pain" as laid out in his budget address. "Seventy percent of the multistate corporations don't pay income taxes but they're telling us we have to share the pain. They are drilling the world's largest natural gas supplies and they're saying 'we shouldn't pay anything in taxes for that.'"

Union members and the environmental community, known as the Blue/Green Alliance, have joined forces to demand a severance tax.

Note: In Wisconsin a small but impassioned group of Fox Cities' residents gathered in Shattuck Park Sunday afternoon to add their protests against Gov. Scott Walker's state budget bill items they say will hurt both the environment and the working class. The BlueGreen Alliance is spreading the message that "hard hats and tree huggers share fundamental goals and values."

The Fox Valley Sierra Group, a branch of the national Sierra Club environmental organization, sponsored the gathering to oppose planned initiatives that affect recycling, public transportation and

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Organizer to Work on Marcellus Shale Issues

The Sierra Club is pleased to introduce Deborah "Deb" Nardone as the organization's first national Natural Gas Reform Campaign Director. Nardone will direct a national campaign aimed at getting the natural gas industry to fully protect our water, air, wildlife, open spaces, and communities.

"Deb has been a leader in protecting watersheds throughout Pennsylvania from unsound development," said Sarah Hodgdon, Sierra Club's Director of Conservation. "We look forward to her bringing her wealth of experience and successful campaigns to this huge challenge on the national stage."

Nardone comes to the Sierra Club from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited where she served as a Coldwater Resource Specialist developing conservation plans to protect the headwaters of streams from inappropriate development which would destroy water quality and trout habitat. This work included creating the campaign for Trout Unlimited to address oil and gas development in Pennsylvania. Nardone has also worked on watershed protection for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area.

"I grew up amidst the hard-rock coal mountains of Pennsylvania, so I am familiar with the energy legacy of orange streams and dead rivers," says Nardone. "It is unfair to burden future generations with more land and water destruction. I am honored to join the Sierra Club to organize and advocate for natural gas reform and promote a clean energy future based on energy efficiency and renewable energy."

Based in State College, Pennsylvania, Nardone will oversee the Sierra Club's aggressive campaign to support strong federal and state safeguards against the threats posed by the natural gas industry and hydraulic fracturing. She will also support the local Sierra Club chapters that are working to ensure that the use of natural gas does not come at the expense of our health, our landscapes, our air, or our water.

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Governor Pinchot Group Hosts Noted Naturalist

In May, the Governor Pinchot Group will sponsor a program that takes a good look at the forests in Pennsylvania. Gene Wingert, noted naturalist and biologist from Dickinson College, will present a program on the health status and future state of the forests of Penn's Woods with emphasis on our local area. This acclaimed presentation, entitled *The Ecology and Health of the Forests of South Central Pennsylvania*, was recently updated and expanded by Wingert and includes wonderful slides and photographs, incisive information, analysis, and commentary. The presentation points the direction that we may need to pursue to protect the forests.

This program is the Sierra Club's annual Wildwood Series presentation for 2011 and will take place at Wildwood Lake on Saturday, May 14th beginning at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be available. Wingert will also lead a nature walk and exploration immediately after the program. The nature walk on the wooden boardwalk next to the Nature Center will take between 45 and 60 minutes.

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Because it Bears Repeating -- Nuclear Energy is Not the Answer

Our hearts go out to the people of Japan in this time of unspeakable tragedy and chaos. Still reeling in the aftermath of a massive quake and devastating tsunami, the Japanese faced a nuclear disaster. This disaster has reignited the debate over nuclear power in America and around the world.

The Sierra Club has unequivocally opposed nuclear energy for more than three decades: Nukes are dirty, unsafe, deadly, and costly. Some in Washington, D.C., though, are still saying we should build more of them. Please tell your U.S. senators that a "nuclear revival" has no place in America's clean-energy future.



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Coleman's Lantern

How to Get from There to Here

by Phil Coleman

I've started reading "Fried Green Tomatoes." I'll confess that I didn't read it when it came out, though I have seen the movie at least twice. The story of Smokey the hobo reminds me of a situation of my childhood. In the depression years we lived close to the railroad. Just a vacant lot separated us from the trains.

We came to know that somehow hoboes had marked our house as one not to stop at, but that our next door neighbor was an easy mark.

Bums (being kids, we didn't know the difference between bums and hoboes) would walk through our back yard to knock on Jesse Harris' door. Jessie would always find something for them to eat, even if it was his own dinner. I think some of them would cut some firewood. But most just ate, said their thanks and moved on. They could spend the night on the other side of the tracks without being noticed. At some point, a freight train would come along. All the trains went through town slowly. Most stopped for water. The hoboes would find a place under, in, or on a freight car and be on their way.

A hobo is a migrant worker. He will work for food or whatever. A tramp is on the move. He will work only if he has to. A bum won't work and won't move along unless the police roust him. These days we tend to call all of three of these "the homeless."

But if they have to travel, how do they go?

We have reached a sad state of affairs. When I was a teenager (in the 1940's), I could hitchhike anywhere. Now, with interstate travel and interstate speed, hitchhikers have all but disappeared. There is a mythology that hitchhikers are dangerous. No one will pick up a stranger, who might be a thief, rapist, killer. How do the dispossessed travel these days? There are still slow freight trains. So some men must still ride the rails. But, I understand that it is now much more difficult to find an open freight car than it used to be, and riding free is now a federal crime.

We might remember that when John Muir decided to leave his Indiana job where he had been injured, he walked to Florida. Several times along the way, he slept in graveyards. It may well be that we will return to Muir's walking days. No one may walk an interstate highway, but there are lots of back roads. And you can walk the tracks even if you can't ride the rails.

When you don't have to, walking is a noble pleasure. I walk daily. The "exercise" is good for me. The fresh air, the sunshine, the sights and sounds along the way make walking a pleasure. But if I was homeless in Erie and winter was coming on and I had to walk to St. Augustine, the challenge would be daunting.

The rich travel faster and more comfortably than ever. But the poor have fewer options than they had half a century ago.

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Conservation Groups fight for Bats

by Stan Kotola

Most bat species in the eastern United States are under attack not only from a blight called White Nose Syndrome but also by continuing encroachment of human development on their habitats. One species threatened and supposedly protected in Pennsylvania is the small-footed bat.

The Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) failure to protect a hibernation site and associated habitat supporting this bat has forced Juniata Valley Audubon and the Center for Biological Diversity to sue the DEP. While not plaintiffs in this case, the Moshannon Group, Sierra Club, along with 15 other organizations, supports the fight to save this habitat.

The Heller Caves Biological Diversity Area (BDA) in Catharine Township, Blair County, is a hibernaculum for eastern small-footed bats. This Blair County Natural Heritage Area is within the boundaries of the proposed Gulf Group limestone mine.

According to the Blair County Natural Heritage Inventory done under the direction of the Blair County Planning Commission from 2001-2006, the Heller Caves BDA hibernacula can be destroyed by adjacent blasting or other earth-moving activities that disrupt bedrock. In addition, the Inventory states that a reduction of forest cover would reduce habitat area for roosting and feeding needed by these bats. According to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) "forested areas with caves, mines, rock outcrops or talus provide key summer habitat" for small-footed bats.

The Blair County Natural Heritage Inventory goes on to state; "Blasting and other activities that will affect the bedrock should be avoided within this area so as not to damage the cave being used as a hibernation site" and "maintaining and cultivating forest cover will increase the amount of available habitat for bats."

The BDA and its defined supporting landscape are part of the proposed mine. The Blair County Natural Heritage Inventory map for Catharine Township clearly indicates that an area circumscribed by a half mile radius from Heller Caves #4 and #5 is Core Habitat for the Heller Caves BDA. Impacts will include forest removal; noise, air, and water pollution; heavy truck and bulldozer traffic; washouts of the trail from runoff from the new heavy-duty roadway; and forest fragmentation.

Significantly, the PGC provided the DEP with maps indicating a Total Avoidance Area surrounding Heller Caves 4 and 5 and extending to the Lower Trail and further to the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River. The DEP, however, issued the mining permit for an area within this Total Avoidance Area.

The DEP failed to protect the PA threatened small-footed bat despite the DEP being aware of the importance of the Heller Caves as a hibernaculum for this species and despite the PGC's designation of a Total Avoidance Area between Heller Caves #4 and #5 and the Frankstown Branch of the Juniata River.

The DEP should have taken a precautionary approach, and denied the permit for mining in any part of the Total Avoidance Area, especially in light of the fact that all the bat species using the hibernacula in the project area are under stress from White Nose Syndrome.

Furthermore, Heller Caves 1,2,3,7, 8 and 9 were not surveyed for hibernating bats, and rock rubble at the cliff base, and crevices in the cliff face were not surveyed for hibernating bats. In all at least 100,000 square feet of suitable hibernating areas were not surveyed for hibernating bats.

All other options for addressing this problem have failed, and, as a result, Juniata Valley Audubon and the Center for Biological Diversity have been forced to take this step of suing the DEP to protect a Pennsylvania threatened species and its habitat.

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Chapter Accepting Applications for Wyona Coleman Scholarship

It's Spring! That means its time to apply for the Wyona Coleman Scholarship. Since 2008 the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club has awarded two \$1,000 scholarships each year in honor of Wyona Coleman.

The scholarship is open to all Pennsylvania residents who are seniors in high school, as well as those already accepted or enrolled into any college-level program in environmental studies.

The Wyona Coleman Scholarship Fund is a memorial to longtime Sierra Club member Wyona Coleman, who was a founding member of both her local Group and the Pennsylvania Chapter. Coleman was a longtime champion of coalfield residents victimized by unregulated strip mining, and was so instrumental in advocating for the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, that she was invited to the White House to witness President Jimmy Carter sign the bill into law.



Applications must include a letter of application; the student's academic record; two letters of support: one academic and the other from a community group in which the applicant has done volunteer work; and a 300-word essay on how the student intends to use their environmental education to protect the environment. Each essay must include a heading with the applicant's name, home mailing address, email, and phone number.

Those awarded the scholarship will be required to provide their Social Security Number and the name and address of the institution in which they will be attending.

Applications are due June 30 and should be submitted electronically to: pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org Please place the word "Scholarship" in the subject line. The Scholarship will be awarded July 15th, 2011.

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National Club Election Coming this Spring

The annual election for the Club's Board of Directors is now underway. Those eligible to vote in the national Sierra Club election will receive in the mail (or by Internet if you chose the electronic delivery option) your national Sierra Club ballot. This will include information on the candidates and where you can find additional information on the Club's website.

The Sierra Club is a democratically structured organization at all levels. The Club requires the regular flow of views on policy and priorities from its grassroots membership in order to function well. Yearly participation in elections at all Club levels is a major membership obligation. Your Board of Directors is required to stand for election by the membership. This Board sets Club policy and budgets at the national level and works closely with the Executive Director and staff to operate the Club. Voting for candidates who express your views on how the Club should grow and change is both a privilege and responsibility of membership.

Members frequently state that they don't know the candidates and find it difficult to vote without learning more. You can learn more by asking questions of your group and chapter leadership and other experienced members you know. Visit the Club's election website: <http://www.sierraclub.org/bod/2011election/default.aspx>

This site provides links to additional information about candidates, and their views on a variety of issues facing the Club and the environment.

You should use your own judgment by taking several minutes to read the ballot statement of each candidate. Then make your choice and cast your vote. Even if you receive your election materials in the mail, please go to the user-friendly Internet voting site to save time and postage. If necessary, you will find the ballot is quite straightforward and easy to mark and mail.

The candidates are listed below in the order they will appear on the ballot:

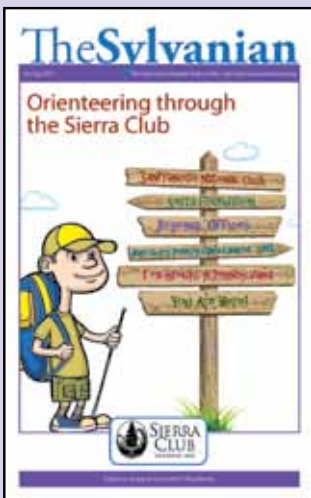
Frank Morris (NY) - P
Jonathan Ela (WI) - N
Larry Fahn (CA) - N
Liz Walsh (TX) - N
Rob Wilder (CA) - N
Jeremy Doochin (TN) - N
Aaron Mair (NY) - N
Jessica Helm (NY) - N

N = Nominating Committee candidate, P = petition candidate

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Orienteeering The Sierra Club

How You Fit In

by Phil Coleman

“The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.” -Albert Einstein

Every time we want a wrong righted we ask, “Why doesn’t the Sierra Club . . .?”

We know of the Club’s size and strength and something of its history. We know that without the Club’s strength, we are small and powerless voices, easy to ignore. But the Club seems remote, sometimes stodgy.

Knowing how it is organized can help us better understand. On occasion, knowing how it is organized even helps us get the attention we need.

Following are articles dealing with different aspects of the Club, from the national offices in San Francisco to the ten Groups that cover Pennsylvania. This may be dull reading, but that doesn’t make it less necessary. How does your group work? Where can you find out more about it. What is the Chapter doing? Who runs your group, your chapter?

We tell you a little bit about outings, a bit about the Web, something of our archives. We even touch on district and regional offices. Then Nancy Parks explains the function of the Club Council – the Chapter’s connection with the national Club.

Please read on.

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Orienteering The Sierra Club



You live in Podunk, PA, and you're mad as Hell! Something has turned the little creek behind your house into a sewer. So, what do you do? You talked to your neighbor and she said, "Oh, that's a shame." You talked to your other neighbor, and he said, "I didn't do it!" You went to see the mayor. He said "It's not a borough problem." You went to the county courthouse, but no one would talk to you.

One person all alone frequently seems powerless. Can anyone help?

TRY THE CLUB

Sierra Club, the largest and most influential grass roots environmental organization in the country, was founded by John Muir and a small group of conservationists in 1892. Since then, it has grown to more than 1.3 million members. Today 343 local groups and 63 chapters form the core of the organization.

THE CLUB IS COMMITTED

to explore, enjoy and protect the wild places of the Earth;

to practice and promote the responsible use of the Earth's ecosystem 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.

IF YOU ARE MAD AS HELL, MAYBE THE CLUB CAN HELP YOU.

We can be proud of our history. We have learned that there are battles worth fighting even if we lose. The early Club grew in strength because of a battle that it lost in 1913: the fight to preserve Hetch Hetchy, a valley near San Francisco located within a national park. That loss left a more vigorous, more determined Sierra Club, ready to fight for parks and wilderness with a more determined and growing membership.

The initiative heightened the Club's political skills and gained the respect of the public.

In the 1960's, under the direction of the club's first paid director David Brower, the club sustained another loss. It lost its tax-exempt status while trying to save the Grand Canyon. David Brower and Sierra Club leaders opposed a proposal to build two huge hydroelectric dams that would flood the Grand Canyon. As Brower put it: "If we can't save the Grand Canyon, what the hell can we save?"

The Sierra Club had to choose between being a tax-exempt organization and becoming an organized political force capable of protecting the Grand Canyon. The Club opted for a new style of organized political action. And as those who have visited the Grand Canyon can attest, the club did manage to save the landmark for posterity.

HOW YOU FIT IN

As a Club member living in Pennsylvania, you are a member of the Pennsylvania Chapter and also a member of one of the ten groups, depending on where you live. Pennsylvania Chapter works on issues from a statewide perspective and Groups work on issues that are unique to the local area. The Chapter and Groups are part of the National Sierra Club, which is headquartered in San Francisco and incorporated in California.

The National, Chapter and Groups of the Sierra Club are interdependent units. The structure of the Sierra Club is designed to support the priorities and policies of the National organization. It is a membership organization that is dependent on volunteer leaders to guide the direction of the club and with the help of staff to do the work of the club. Groups and teams are the smallest units of the Club and are meant to engage volunteers in the goals and activities of the club.

GETTING THE ATTENTION OF THE CLUB FOR YOUR ISSUE

Often people join the Sierra Club because of an environmental issue that has touched their lives. They see things that are wrong or places that need protection.

IF YOU HAVE A CONCERN, WHERE DO YOU START?

The best place to start is with your local Group.

To present an issue to the Group, gather as much information as you can about the issue and prepare a statement that lays out the problem, its environmental implications, and possible actions that can be taken. The more convincing you make your presentation, the more likely that the group will take up your issue.

The local leadership of the Club can assist you in finding the committee chair or issue chair to advise you on the issue. Often, the issue may already be on the Club's radar screen. If not, the group can help research the issue and determine whether this is a local issue that should stay within the Group or if it needs to be referred to the Chapter.

TAPPING INTO CLUB RESOURCES



The Club relies heavily on access to the Internet and email to contact its members. The Chapter's Web site address is: <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/>

From the chapter's Web site, you can link to each Pennsylvania Group's site.

Make sure that the Chapter has your email address. You can send your email address to the Chapter by email: pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

To learn more about the Club structure, visit Clubhouse: <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/>

As a member of the Sierra Club, you can expect to receive a newsletter from your local Group and the Chapter (*The Sylvanian*) and a magazine

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from the National organization (Sierra). *The Sylvanian* is an electronic newsletter, which is posted on the Chapter's Web site.

The National Sierra Club has developed an online site that offers a host of information called Online Community located at: <http://action.sierraclub.org>

There, members can get the latest Sierra Club news, listen to Sierra Club Radio podcasts and access numerous blogs. It is a way of getting connected to the whole world of the Sierra Club.

THE CHAPTER

The Pennsylvania Chapter employs a full-time lobbyist in Harrisburg to promote and advocate for state laws and regulations that protect the environment. Each year in June the Club sponsors a citizens' lobby day in which members are encouraged to meet with their state legislators to try to influence their support of pending environmental proposals.

The Chapter Office, known as SPEL, also retains an administrative assistant, who is there to assist members. The SPEL office is located at 101 South Second Street, Suite 4 on the ground floor of the Executive House apartment complex in Harrisburg. Its mailing address and telephone number is:

Sierra Club – PA Chapter
PO Box 606
Harrisburg, PA 17108
717-232-0101

The Pennsylvania Chapter holds regular Executive Committee (Ex Com) meetings, which set environmental priorities and oversees its spending and revenue. Each Group is represented by at least one delegate and six at-large delegates. There are six at-large delegates that can come from any group. Group delegates are an important link between the Chapter and the Groups. They are responsible for the exchange of information between the Groups and the Chapter. Group delegates should be intimately involved in the Groups' activities and priorities so they can represent the Groups' interests during the Chapter Ex Com meetings. The Group delegates should report back to the Group members on actions taken at the Chapter Ex Com. Likewise, Group delegates should bring the Group's issues to the Chapter.

At-large delegates are elected to two-year terms by the members of the Pennsylvania Chapter. The Group delegates are also elected by the Groups.

The Chapter Ex Com holds a re-organization meeting each January when the elected members of the Ex Com select a Chapter Chair and other officers necessary to conduct the business of the Club.

The Chapter Ex Com appoints issue chairs to provide help and expertise to the Chapter and Groups. The Issue Chairs must be familiar with the National's policies concerning their issue, educate others about their issue and mentor at least one Club member to become an expert in the issue. The Issue Chairs comprise the Chapter Conservation Committee, which sets the agenda for environmental priorities each year.

The Issue Chairs and their contact information are listed in the Chapter Directory, which is included in the Chapter newsletter, *The Sylvanian*. Members can join an issue committee by contacting the chair.

Orienteering The Sierra Club



by Wendi Taylor

On the down escalator, Jeff Schmidt waves to a veteran legislator who is on the way up, exchanging “Good Mornings.” Strolling into the capitol cafeteria, he grabs a cup of coffee, then sits with a fellow lobbyist for a few minutes.

Then he is off into the serpentine hallways that lead to a legislator’s office to deliver a fact sheet. He hurries because he needs to get to the Rachel Carson building for a Citizens Advisory Council meeting at 10 a.m.

This is just another day in the life of a lobbyist.

For 28 years the Pennsylvania Chapter has supported the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Environmental Lobby Office, which we call SPEL for short. In 1983 the Club hired a full-time lobbyist becoming the first environmental organization to have a dedicated staff member at the state capitol, Sierra Club Legislative Director Jeff Schmidt. Still with us, Schmidt has become synonymous with the Sierra Club on the hill.

“It was a privilege in 1983 to be hired by Sierra Club to represent our environmental interests in Harrisburg. And it is an honor to be able to continue that work today. I have been lobbying for the Sierra Club during the administrations of five different governors. One of the first issues I began work on in 1983 was passage of the Oil and Gas Act. Now, 28 years later, our priority is the Marcellus Shale gas drilling issue. One of our major efforts is to update the Oil and Gas Act to address the unique problems created by hydraulic fracturing in deep horizontal gas wells, which was not technologically possible in the 80’s.

In 1983 the Club hired a full-time lobbyist becoming the first environmental organization to have a dedicated staff member at the state capitol...

“Climate Change was not an issue in the 1980’s although we were working on a variety of energy-related issues even then. Now, we realize that if we don’t reverse the trend of greenhouse gas emissions, most of the other issues we work on will not matter. Since the 80’s, we have made significant progress in getting more public lands protected, but pollution and climate change know no political boundaries.”

Over the years, the Sierra Club has pressed the General Assembly and the administration to make good on the Commonwealth’s Constitutional promise that every citizen has the right to clean air and water. Some political climates are better than others. When the political climate is good, the club makes progress, enacting a statewide recycling law, Growing Greener, acid rain remediation, and improved clean water regulations.

When the climate is bad, the club defends the environment from the worst proposals. “Depending on who is in power, we sometimes need to play defense,”

Schmidt said. “When that happens, we may not make measurable progress, but we should consider blocking or mitigating bad bills or regulations as successes.” The political pendulum swings and you have to figure out how best to engage, based on the current circumstances.”

Schmidt works closely with the Conservation Committee, which each year compiles its legislative priorities that help to set the agenda for his lobbying efforts. In addition, Schmidt monitors legislative proposals and assesses their effect on the environment.

“One of the reasons why Sierra Club is so effective is the team of volunteer leaders and staff that make us unique among environmental organizations,” Schmidt said. “Our grassroots activists can apply constituent pressure, so that when I walk into a legislator’s office he/she pays attention.”

The club has had a number of successful Harrisburg Lobby Days which provide momentum for our issues. “Our volunteer leaders are extremely knowledgeable and politically savvy, so our positions are grounded in science and our goals achievable. Some organizations overreach, and become irrelevant to the process.”

The club also differs from many other environmental organizations because it engages in political action during elections. Schmidt noted, “We have helped elect many environmental heroes over the years, as we have helped to defeat environmental zeros. Many of our heroes are targeted for defeat by the economic forces of darkness who oppose us on our issues. We need to defend our champions, just like we need to work for the defeat of our enemies.”

Within three years of opening the SPEL Office, the Chapter hired an administrative assistant who helps the director keep the office running smoothly. Our current administrative assistant is Lindsay Delp, who joined our staff last summer. Delp provides administrative support, helps with the March Appeal fundraising effort, organizes Executive Committee meetings, organizes the annual June Lobby Day, and assists members with their inquiries. Recently, Delp put her computer skills to work to assist with an email survey that reached out to members who are willing to volunteer their time and talents to the club.

“As a new staff person coming into the environmental field, I was truly impressed by the inner-workings of such a dynamic organization,” Delp said. “It’s fun working with volunteers and exciting to be involved in important legislative processes.

“I’ve worked in member outreach before, but it’s great to be a part of an organization that so many people trust and turn to for leadership. Through advocating for the environment, we’re also advocating for people’s health, families, and ability to enjoy Pennsylvania’s natural wild places,” she said.

If anyone has questions about the Sierra Club, a good place to start is with the SPEL office. Technically, Schmidt and Delp are employed by the national office but paid by the Chapter. The SPEL Committee oversees the office staff and makes sure that the chapter complies with Club employment policies and practices. The Chapter chair, Dennis Winters, is the chair of SPEL Committee, conducts the director’s evaluation, and oversees personnel actions related to salary decisions, and recruitment.

“The Sierra Club staff in the SPEL office operates with exceptional efficiency and effectiveness. In spite of the significantly larger staffs of our sister environmental organizations in Harrisburg, the Chapter’s ‘bang for the buck’ in the General Assembly and among the Commonwealth’s administrative agencies is unequaled,” said Winters.

“This remarkable presence is due largely to the ability and experiences our Chapter Director, Jeff Schmidt. Jeff’s nearly three decades of service on our behalf have made him a formidable force protecting the environment and the health of all Pennsylvanians.”

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Orienteering The Sierra Club



by Gary Thornbloom

"If people in general could be got into the woods, even for once, to hear the trees speak for themselves, all difficulties in the way of forest preservation would vanish" - John Muir

From its founding by John Muir in 1892 outings have been at the heart of the Sierra Club mission. Muir invited President Theodore Roosevelt to camp with him. Roosevelt had a fine time and went on to protect more lands by law than any previous president.

In the first several decades of the Club's existence its focus was on protecting and making the Sierra more accessible - the High Trip for nearly 50 years took large groups, up to 200, into the wilderness. While enjoying the mountains Club members also learned about biology, the history of Yosemite, and heard Muir speak on geomorphology.

Times changed, and many Club members thought smaller outings were more appropriate: Burro Trips, Knapsack Trips, and Base Camps began in the late 1930's. The High Trip remained and David Brower recalled that it "was the best source of the conservation warrior."

In 1951 the Club changed its mission from "explore, enjoy, and render accessible..." to "explore, enjoy, and preserve..." The Club has always emphasized conservation and education. Leading 200 people into a wilderness was no longer acceptable, and outings with a smaller number of participants became the norm.

The Club expanded further east. David Brower urged the Club to plan a raft trip to float through Dinosaur National Monument, which was proposed as a dam site in the early 1950's. This was the beginning of the many rafting trips by Club members throughout the west. The trips let ordinary people - men, women, and children - safely float rivers that until then only few experienced boatmen had seen. By seeing these places, people were willing to fight to protect them. The Club made certain that journalists, and influential politicians were along! Oh, and there are no dams in Dinosaur National Monument or in the Grand Canyon today.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT ON AN OUTING IN PENNSYLVANIA?

Club outings explore Pennsylvania's forests and waters. We day hike, bike, cross country ski, and paddle. We backpack and canoe camp. We maintain trails, and clean up streams on service outings. Outings vary from easy for beginners to demanding. Outing leaders will give you an idea of the physical demands of the outing, the appropriate clothing, necessary gear, and necessary skills.

Outings are open to both members and non-members. Outings are a great way to learn the skills necessary for outdoor activities. By learning the right way to engage in outdoor activities you will have a better chance of enjoying the outdoors throughout all four seasons.

To participate, see *The Sylvania* "Meetings and Outings" pages and visit Group websites. You will find a wide offering with many interests and skill levels. This year the Moshannon Group will host the PA Chapter Member Outing and Retreat at Black Moshannon State Park. Camp, hike, bike, and canoe with Group members that know the area.

While you are exploring and enjoying our woods and waters you will also be learning about the human and natural history of these places. You will learn about the plants and animals. You will learn your watershed. You will learn about the conservation issues that threaten these places. You will gain a sense of place, and then you may find yourself wanting to protect and preserve that place. And that is what the Sierra Club and Sierra Club Outings are about - exploring, enjoying, and protecting!

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SMALL & Remote: OTZINACHSON

by Phil Coleman

Over half of the Pennsylvania Chapter's members belong to two groups – Southeastern Group, Philadelphia centered, and Allegheny Group, Pittsburgh centered. But the rest of the state is served by eight groups, which are large in area but small in population. What is it like to be a member of one of these “other” groups? To find out, I asked the leadership of Otzinachson group, which serves north central Pennsylvania, a few questions. Here are some answers (and my comments):

1. How many members do you have?

Otzinachson has 773 members unevenly spread over a six county area. Chair Sam Pearson says, “We have concentrations in population centers in our area which also happen to have institutions of higher learning; but as there is far more land area not in those centers, the bulk of our members live scattered across the region. Many towns have just one or two members; many none.”

2. How many would you consider “active Members”?

Seven actively attend executive committee meetings and then there is a core outing group of about 20 and a core event attendee group of about 20.

4. What is your group's greatest strength?

Our outings. The Otzinachson Group offers approximately 30-35 outings each year, primarily hiking. This reflects the abundance and variety of hiking trails to be found in central Pennsylvania. We try to offer a variety of hikes including easy nature walks, challenging strenuous hikes, dog walks, hikes for families, etc. The majority of our outings fall into the moderate-strenuous category, reflecting the interests of the hike leaders. We have about 10 core volunteer hike leaders, most with extensive experience, who make our outings program possible. The number of participants per outing varies. In the last two years, we have had as few as four and as many as 34. Most outings average eight to ten participants. Assuming an average of ten participants per outing, more than 300 people participate in our outings annually. There are probably 40-50 “regulars” who will join at least one or two outings every year, and perhaps ten “first timers” who are interested in organized hiking and want to try it out. Many of these people become “regulars.”

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Editor's note: Otzinachson's outings program has a history that virtually predates the organization of the Chapter. The leaders are enthusiastic and dedicated.

5. Can you identify a weakness? Is the weakness curable, or is it built in to the nature of groups or your group?

Failure or inability to communicate with the majority of the population in our area. We live in a place where we are surrounded by farmers who consider "sustainable agriculture" fighting words, or else think it refers only to financial sustainability. There is also a lot of understandable resistance to looking the gift horse of shale gas development in the mouth. This may be a structural difficulty of a progressive group in a traditional area, but we do make efforts to bridge the gap.

6. Right now, what is your most important conservation issue?

Energy -- gas drilling/water/habitat/land use and National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors.

7. Is this issue also an important chapter issue?

Yes, though we struggle with the pro-gas message implicit in national's Beyond Coal Campaign, we acknowledge that gas is cleaner than mountaintop removal, but are not certain that the club really understands the potential impacts for us here of what amounts to valley removal.

8. Are there other important issues?

Sustainable agriculture, local food, watershed health (and the tensions between the agricultural and non-agricultural communities), sustainable transportation, community outreach, land use planning, waste management (open burning, dumping, low recycling compliance/no enforcement, no pay-as-you-throw).

9. Is your group involved in issues that are not important to the Chapter?

We find ourselves facing legacy pollution issues, whether in the form of the refuse from the hard coal mining industry (and the threat of off-road vehicle parks conflicting with reestablished habitat and wildlife sanctuaries) or just the detritus of river towns that for decades considered the river a dump. (The amount of problematic chemicals deposited in floodplains and now gradually leaching into the river is striking.) We are also now dealing with issues that seem to come out of a several decade time warp for those not in the area, e.g. one of our core communities is currently in the midst of planning to abandon an existing high school in the center of town and do green field development several miles away.

It's not that these issues are not important to the chapter, but their continued presence can seem unfathomable to those in places that have a better sense of the consequences of sprawl or the scope and seriousness of non-point pollution. And the typical solutions and resources offered to help combat them tend to be inadequate to redress local blindness.

10. How often does your executive committee meet?

Six times a year.

11. How often do you have general membership meetings?

We don't per se, though we do offer events programming, like film screenings, lectures, and networking meetings, typically also on the order of six times a year.

12. Do you have any sub-groups (like Sierra Singles, inner city outings)?

Not officially, but we do cooperate with other groups locally like Organizations United for the Environment, the Responsible Drilling Alliance, Norry Neighbors, Warrior Run Residents for Responsible Development, and the Local Action Network. In particular, we hope to encourage Transition Town efforts that seem to be starting to evolve.

13. What else should I know?

The issue of sparse population and relatively minor centers has repercussions for every sort of endeavor in this area. It is certainly not specific to Sierra Club; the region can't seem to support the services, institutions or businesses that many people in cities take for granted. The Club is just one of many entities that operate on a greatly reduced scale out here. On the other hand, we can make the most of an inherent nearness to the land for potentially greater self-sufficiency and opportunities to explore.

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by Wendi Taylor

Because of Marcellus Shale drilling problems throughout Pennsylvania, the Chapter added gas drilling to its Strategic Plan, it became obvious that we did not have enough volunteers to implement all of our the planned actions.

The Long Range Planning and Implementation Committee (LRPIC) had developed a plan in 2009, but then the Shale rush changed everything.

That is when the Oil and Gas Committee called upon the LRPIC to provide the support it needs. The LRPIC was the closest thing the Chapter had to help with implementation.

The LRPIC solicited suggestions from committees and others about what they needed to meet their strategic conservation goals. Without exception, all committees and issue chairs were asking for the same thing: volunteers.

Because the chapter does not have a Volunteer Coordinating Committee, the LRPIC expanded its duties to include providing the support needed to reach our goals. The first unmet need was volunteers – recruiting them, nurturing them and activating them -- to work with the club. The LRPIC has recommended the creation of a Volunteer Coordinating Committee, whose job will be to coordinate volunteers. In the interim, the LRPIC is acting in that capacity. LRPIC hopes to hand off this job to the new Volunteer Coordinating Committee sometime soon.

One of the first thing that the LRPIC did was to survey its members and supporters to find out what issues they were interested in, what skills they have, and what kinds of activities they are willing to participate in. More than 600 people responded. Armed with that information, the committee asked each committee and issue chair to provide the LRPIC with a description of their work and a list of activities for which they need volunteers. Upon receiving this information, the LRPI Committee provides the

Orienteering The Sierra Club

names and email addresses of volunteers who have expressed interest in their issue, along with the skills that they have with the understanding that the information can only be used for Sierra Club business.

The LRPIC is also organizing volunteers to review the Chapter web site and identify ways to update and improve it. Another group of volunteers is working on a brochure that can be used by the Groups and Chapter to distribute to new members.

The committee has also developed a universal sign in sheet that should be used for all meetings and activities.

In September, the LRPIC will provide a one-day seminar for Club leaders that will help them stay connected with volunteers and build capacity in the organization.

The Chapter office is working to make sure that each group has one person who is designated to keep the Club's membership system, called HELEN, up to date. One of the topics that will be covered at the one-day seminar will be the use of HELEN to identify people who are willing volunteers.

Finally, the LRPIC is reviewing the idea of creating local teams in locations where there is a cluster of members and supporters. Most of the groups cover large areas of the state, making it difficult for those on the outer boundaries of the Group to attend meetings.

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by Tom Au

The Widener Environmental Help Line seeks to empower Pennsylvania citizens by helping them respond to environmental problems or issues confronting them. In many cases, the Help Line will provide legal knowledge and guidance so that citizens (or groups of citizens) can advocate for themselves. In some cases, the Law Center Clinic will represent the citizens and/or their group in pursuing appropriate legal recourse. In addition, over time Widener will provide non-privileged legal analyses provided to other Help Line users so that legal information and analysis can be leveraged for even greater effect. The Clinic, partially funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, has already created a Citizens Guide to Legal Issues of Marcellus Shale Drilling, which is available on-line by clicking this link: http://blogs.law.widener.edu/envirolawcenter/files/2010/03/Marcellus_Citizens_Guide-Summer_2010.pdf

HOW DOES THE HELP LINE WORK?

Citizens can seek the Clinic's help by contacting the Clinic in one of two ways: A Toll Free telephone line (1-888-953-6853) OR an internet-based Request for Help Form available at www.widenerELC.org (and clicking on the Request for Help Form link on the right hand side of the home page). In either case, the citizen will provide basic contact information (name, phone number, best time to call) for Clinic follow up on the environmental problem for which the citizen seeks assistance.

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by Bob Berger

As a society, we are so “now” oriented that we tend to lose the past, and having lost it, we are in danger of having to learn its lessons all over. We need to preserve records of where we are going so we will know where we have been. The Pennsylvania Chapter has made an effort to preserve its records in an archive, not totally systematic but useful just the same.

Archives are public records and historical documents that are preserved in a secure place (in almost any form). That secure place is not an attic or the pile of papers waiting to be sorted at the back edge of your desk. Facilities, such as public libraries or historical societies that are experienced in providing maximum protection and needed cataloging, are much more useful places.

The Sierra Club was founded in 1892 by John Muir with 182 charter members.. At first, records were kept at the Club’s office in San Francisco. Unfortunately, many irreplaceable documents were lost when the office was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and fire. What a better testimony for having archives in a secure place? In 1958, the Club designated The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkley, as its official site for archives. Its records form one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of environmental materials in the United States.

There are 65 Chapters in the Sierra Club, but Pennsylvania is one of only 17 with a Chapter archive. Some groups were formed before there was a Pennsylvania Chapter: Allegheny, followed by Southeastern, Governor Pinchot, and Headwaters, became Pennsylvania Groups before the Pennsylvania Chapter was created in 1971. They began as part of the Atlantic Chapter, which covered the entire northeastern United States. While the Southeastern Group was fighting a Tocks Island Dam on the Delaware, with little time for concern with archives, the West rallied around the academia at the University of Pittsburgh in dealing with a large variety of environmental issues leading to archives important to the Sierra Club. With activists like long time member Samuel Hays leading the way, a Pennsylvania Chapter archive became a reality.

Here is how Sam Hays remembers it: “When I went to Pitt in 1960 as chair of the history department one of my responsibilities was to establish an ‘Archive of Industrial Society’ to form the basis of student and faculty research in the history of Pittsburgh as an industrial-urban society. We got going only slowly but by the time I retired as department chair (1973) it was a going concern and we were gathering historical material not just about Pittsburgh but about Pennsylvania as a whole. Then as I got further into work in environmental affairs I began to develop personal contacts in various environmental organizations and over the years developed an ‘Environmental’ section to the archives.”

When the Chapter office went through a housecleaning, Hays got Supervisor Jeff Schmidt to box up a “batch of stuff” and start the Sierra Club Chapter Archive as part of the Environmental Archives at Pitt. Sam and his wife Barbara were instrumental in establishing our Chapter archive in the mid 1970’s. They also have their own archive along side those of other Club activists, including Wyona Coleman, Gail Rockwood, Richard Pratt, and Bruce Sundquist, to name a few.

We must avoid lulls in record keeping and constantly work to preserve our records and historical documents. This is particularly true with Group archives. We must all do our part in preserving them. Don’t let, or wait for, our precious environmental history to slip away.

Recycle only when you are positive a document is not worth saving.

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Orienteering The Sierra Club



by Phil Coleman



Since Sierra Club is incorporated as a 501 (C)(4) organization, members need to know just what that distinction means. First, it means that Sierra Club is a non-profit, as distinguished from all those corporations that want to make money. Being a non-profit, means that we are exempt from paying federal income tax.

But we are not a 501 (C)(3). For its first 70 years of its existence, the Sierra Club did not worry about such fine distinctions. But, in 1960, when the Club was in an all-out campaign to prevent damming in the Grand Canyon, the Internal Revenue Service complained that we were using our non-profit funds for lobbying. At that point we had to quit our advocacy or declare as a (C)(4). The Club became a (c)(4).

Many organizations with similar environmental missions are 501 (C)(3)'s. This means that not only are they exempt from paying tax, they are also able to solicit charitable contributions from donors who want to deduct their donations on their income tax. (C)(3) organizations can do much the same work as (C)(4) organizations. They can do whatever can be defined as education. However, they may not engage in political activity and they are strictly limited on the amount of lobbying they can do. As long as we are using (C)(4) funds, the Sierra Club is free to endorse and work for political candidates, and we can lobby. In fact, the Sierra Club has its own Political Action Fund whose money is specifically raised so that we can contribute to the campaigns of our endorsed candidates.

Many foundations that support environmental advocacy manage their endowments by giving only money that they can get charitable donation credit for, in other words, (C)(3) money. In order to accept and use such donations, in 1960 the Sierra Club created a separate corporation, The Sierra Club Foundation, which is a (C)(3) organization. The Foundation funds are restricted to charitable purposes, such as scientific research, education, and litigation. Member dues and some other income the Club receives are (C)(4) funds and can be used for lobbying and political advocacy. But the Foundation also solicits and receives (C)(3) donations. This money can be used for a variety of purposes but not for lobbying or politics. You might note that *The Sylvaniaian* is primarily an educational tool and can therefore is mostly funded by (C)(3) funds. However, the election issues are entirely funded with (C)(4) money.

In these tough times, we find it increasingly difficult to stretch our (C)(4) dollars for the advocacy work we do. But we do the best we can.

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by Wendi Taylor

The Chapter would like to know you better. To that end, the Long Range Planning and Implementation (LRPI) Committee recently surveyed members and supporters about their time, talents and interests. More than 600 people responded to the survey and their answers have helped the Sierra Club know you better.

The club got responses from people living in 55 counties and learned that we have a wealth of support out there. In fact, people volunteered between 19,536 and 31,884 hours a year to work on environmental issues – the equivalent of nine to 15 full-time positions!

The LRPI Committee is working to organize a Volunteer Coordinating Committee to make sure that everyone who wants to work with the Sierra Club is invited to do something that uses their interest and skills. Until the Volunteer Coordinating Committee is created, the LRPI Committee is assuming those duties. Some of the respondents have already been asked to write a letter to the editor, work on creating a brochure, train to become water testers, address envelopes, and help with updating the Chapter's Web site.

Another thing we learned from the survey is that 54 percent of those that responded are already on Facebook and about 25 percent are connected to LinkedIn, a network of professionals.

The top three activities that people volunteered to do are: sign a petition, respond to an email alert, and write letters to legislators.

About 14 percent of those that responded had a fishing license and 6 percent had a hunting license.

The survey showed that our members and supporters are multi-talented, with the average person selecting four skills from the 28 listed. The skill that the respondents had most in common is gardening. Forty percent said they were gardeners, 30 percent said they are skilled in writing and another 30 percent said they are skilled in cooking. About 25 percent said they had computer skills. There are some other skills that may be particularly helpful in growing the Club, such as 24 percent selected public speaking, which may help the Club develop a speakers bureau; 16 percent had skills for advocating or community organizing, which can assist in organizing teams across the state; and 9 percent had fundraising skills, which can be useful in creating new fundraisers to support the Club.

The average person completing the survey selected a dozen issues they were interested in out of the 22 listed. This shows us that members understand the inter-connectedness of the environment. According to our survey, the top five issues are preserving our forests and public lands, protecting our water supply, safeguarding our wildlife and endangered species, defending our environment from gas drilling/hydro fracturing; and developing renewable energy.

These issues are all inter-related. Right now, the greatest threat to our forests and public lands is gas drilling. Our forests and wild places provide the habitat for many species that, if destroyed, will become endangered. As gas drilling expands, it is becoming clearer all the time that the waste water from drilling is threatening our water supplies. Finally, relying on this new source of natural gas may only prolong our dependence on fossil fuels and delay the development of renewable energy.

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The survey pointed out that we have to do more to involve our members and supporters in our activities. Only 28 percent of those surveyed have ever attended a Sierra Club event and 77 percent said they would like to know more about their local group. Two-thirds of the respondents say they read the Chapter's newsletter, *The Sylvanian*, while only half read their local group's newsletter. In response, the LRPI Committee is working on a brochure for new members to help them get involved in Sierra Club activities. Further, the committee is working on a one-day training for club leaders that will provide new ways to engage members, make them feel welcome and included in the activities of the club.

If you have not completed our survey, it's still available! <http://action.sierraclub.org/site/PageNavigator/110112PAChapterVolunteerSurvey>

VOLUNTEER LEADERS NEEDED!

Thirty-five respondents said they would be interested in assuming a leadership role within the Club. The Pennsylvania Chapter has several open positions that need to be filled to round out our conservation efforts. They are:

- Chair of the Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee
- Chair of the Committee on Radiation and the Environment (CORE)
- Chair of the Sustainable Agriculture Committee
- Chair of the Volunteer Coordinating Committee
- Chair of Outings Committee
- Chair of Land Use Committee

To assume the position of chair of a conservation committee, the candidate must become familiar with the Club's policy on the issue, which can be found on the National's Clubhouse site. <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/>

Further, the chair should have sufficient volunteer time to donate to the topic along with interest and some experience and background in the issue. To apply for one of these positions, submit your letter of interest and resume in writing to:

Sierra Club – PA Chapter
P.O. Box 606
Harrisburg, PA 17108

To submit your application by email make sure you indicate in the subject line: "Application for Committee Chair" and send your email to: pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

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by Dan Schreffler

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE PA CHAPTER'S ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION.

The Chapter's web, Facebook, Twitter sites, and email alerts provide members and the general public options on how to stay informed on key environmental issues, activities, and activism opportunities. You can use as many or as few as you like. Whatever means fits your life style, you can keep up to date and involved.

Good Ol' [HTTP://PENNSYLVANIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/](http://PENNSYLVANIA.SIERRACLUB.ORG/)

Our main home page is the foundation of our electronic communications. The key areas on the site's main page are:

"Inside Our Chapter" – New and noteworthy topic pertaining to the Chapter.

"Take Action" – Specific activity you need to do to protect the PA's environment

"Breaking News" – Headlines of current and important environmental news.

From the main page, you can also access these pages of the web site:

- Meetings & Outings – find out what the Chapter and your local group is planning.
- Publications – check out current and back issues of the "*The Sylvania*", press releases and group newsletters.
- Conservation – learn about many environmental topics.
- Politics & Activism – stay informed and take action on legislation and elected officials.
- About Us – know "who's who" in the chapter, and what the Inner City Outings Program, and Sierra Student Coalition are.

Still looking, then use the Google search box on the main page to dig for information.

FACEBOOK

The Chapter started using the social media site FaceBook this year. It allows the Club to interact with Facebook members. Members can share, and comment on what the Chapter posts. You can find the PA Chapter on FaceBook at <http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>

TWEET TWEET TWEET

Twitter is another means to stay informed by following the Chapter. The Chapter informs the Twitter community via tweets – 140 characters or less messages. Come follow us at <http://twitter.com/sierra-clubpa>

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EMAIL ALERTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Predating Twitter and Facebook by a decade or more, our email alerts system continues to provide timely calls to action, and discussion opportunities. PA-ALERTS is an announcement-only email list that automatically sends Sierra Club members action alerts about important environmental issues and explains how you can take positive action to assist our Chapter on priority issues. There are other PA issue discussion groups you can subscribe to. You can find out how by visiting: http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/online-activism.html

Should you have any comments, questions, or concerns, feel free to contact our web keeper, and computer chair: webmaster@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org or computer.chair@pennsylvania.sierraclub.org.

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by Nancy F. Parks

The Council of Club Leaders (CCL) is an important link between the Pennsylvania Chapter and the national Board of Directors. Each Chapter has a delegate and an alternate delegate to CCL. CCL delegates serve a myriad of functions and advise the BOD on internal Sierra Club administrative issues. The CCL thoroughly reviews, evaluates, discusses and resolves issues at its annual meeting, held in conjunction with the national Board of Directors (BOD) meeting in September of each year.

During last year's annual meeting the CCL not only forged some tough agreements in administration but also in conservation. In 2010 delegates evaluated the appropriateness of hydro-fracturing drilling for natural gas and determined that it was not a method that should be used to retrieve natural gas. Other resolutions presented to CCL for consideration included increasing presence of Sierra Student Coalition (SSC) in Chapters, opposing federal Supreme Court decisions and addressing several issues on the internal workings of the Club. Delegates also nominate members to the national Organizational Effectiveness Governance Committee, which sometimes is called to deal with the resolution of Chapter conflict, among other matters.

Nancy F. Parks currently serves as our delegate, while Arthur Clark is our alternate. They are elected to serve two-year terms. National Committees, such as the SSC, also send members to the CCL. There is an Executive Committee of five members that meet or communicate regularly. Parks has long served as the Pennsylvania Chapter's delegate, a position that she says has held her interest her for a long time. Parks noted that the annual CCL meeting is an excellent opportunity to speak with the current members of the BOD and express both personal and Chapter concerns about the environment.

At the last annual meeting, the new Club Executive Director Michael Brune met with CCL and described the path that Sierra Club will follow in the near future. Likewise, National Sierra Club President Robin Mann – from Pennsylvania Chapter! – expressed the national board's readiness and willingness to help Chapters accomplish their conservation mission, build their membership and activist base and broaden their reach. The Club has developed a new Activist Network to engage our grassroots leadership and the new State and Local Victories online tracker. Chapters are encouraged to perform

self assessments and identify areas of improvement and highlight their success.

Last year, delegates – at their own expense – had the opportunity to attend the Awards banquet, a joyous affair celebrating successes. One of the highlights of the banquet was honoring CCL delegate and award winner Angel Sousa from Puerto Rico, whose Chapter membership has ballooned over the last decade. The Puerto Rican Chapter has used their own unique methods to reach out to their local populations, advertised their environmental ethic and forged true successes in environmental stewardship throughout their island.

For more information about CCL, contact our delegates.

If you want to get an up to date idea of how the Sierra Club is currently organized nationally, then access our new organizational chart: <http://clubhouse.sierraclub.org/people/staff/executive-team-structure.aspx#chart>

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by Lawson LeGate, Eastern Regional Field Organizing Director

Anyone who has ever tried to bring about positive change in their community has learned that it's hard to do by themselves. That's why Sierra Club's field organizing staff come together to identify common goals and strategize with each other how to achieve those goals, and that's why we participate with each other in the various activities and events – such as mercury hair testing – that move us closer to our goals.

In March Sierra Club organizer William Kramer and volunteers organized a mercury hair testing event in Ardmore to illustrate the public health threat posed by burning coal. When coal is burned to produce power it ends up in bodies of water and is taken up by fish. When we eat contaminated fish, we take toxic mercury into our bodies. The hair testing event held in Ardmore and in many other locations around the country to drive home the point that burning coal has health consequences.

Kramer is part of a team of Sierra Club staff who work in the Eastern Field Organizing Region of the Sierra Club. The Eastern Region includes the states of the Eastern Seaboard plus Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia. Along with Field Organizer Randy Francisco, Senior Field Organizing Manager Rachel Martin and Sierra Student Coalition Organizer Sasha Shyduroff (based in Pittsburgh), Kramer works with Sierra Club members and other supporters to help the organization achieve its overarching priority:

...to inspire, build and empower a renewed movement to address climate change by winning victories that diminish the power of the coal and oil industries, while creating real and concrete improvements in people's lives.

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Throughout the Eastern Region, our organizers work on a range of campaigns, such as ending our dependence on coal, protecting America's great wildland areas, and working to safeguard the health communities through the Sierra Club's Environmental Justice program. Regardless of the issue or campaign, what our Eastern Organizing staff members are working with members and supporters to build a stronger, more effective movement to meet the challenges that face our nation and our planet.

There are many ways to build a movement. One of the fundamentals involves volunteers taking on the role of identifying and recruiting other volunteers. It takes little imagination to realize how this kind of viral activity can greatly enhance our power. And it is power that we need to move us away from coal and toward clean energy, to protect Pennsylvania from the harmful effects of natural gas development, and to save the land and water of the state from damaging development.

This is where Sierra Club members and supporters in Pennsylvania come in. There has never been a greater need or opportunity to participate as a Sierra Club volunteer. Contacting the organizing site closest to you and offering to volunteer is obviously helpful. But make that connection and asking how you can work with other volunteers and with our organizers to identify and recruit still more volunteers – that's priceless. If you're in the Philadelphia area, you can e-mail William Kramer at william.kramer@sierraclub.org. If you're closer to Pittsburgh, contact Randy Francisco at randy.francisco@sierraclub.org. And if you're a student you can also e-mail Sasha at sasha.syduroff@sierraclub.org.

No matter where you live in Pennsylvania, don't hesitate to reach out to any of these people.

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by Rachel Martin

Since 2004, the Sierra Club has had national field organizing staff in Pennsylvania. Over the years, field organizing staff has worked with volunteer leaders on a number of successful conservation campaigns, from highlighting the Bush Administration's anti-environment agenda and passing a state mercury rule to local campaigns to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and more. The staff has also worked to involve Sierra Club members and others in state and federal electoral campaigns.

Today, our organizing staff continues to work on important campaigns to move Pennsylvania and our whole country forward on health, environment and clean energy. Randy Francisco, the field organizer in Pittsburgh, is working with teams of volunteers to move Pennsylvania beyond coal to a clean energy future. William Kramer, the associate field organizer in Philadelphia, is working with volunteer leaders to build support for critical new federal regulations that will help protect Pennsylvanians' health, as well as working to defend these protections from Congressional attacks. Sasha Shyduroff, the Sierra Student Coalition organizer, works with student leaders at colleges, universities, and high schools across Pennsylvania to build strong campaigns to increase the sustainability of their campuses. Sasha also works with cross-campus student leader networks to protect Pennsylvanians' health and environment from the negative impacts of deep well natural gas drilling. Rachel Martin, the senior field organizing manager, is based in the Pittsburgh office and works to support all these organizers.

Key to these organizers' work is building a movement to protect our health and environment, and all are eager to engage new volunteers and leaders. To get involved with any of these campaigns, just give them a call!

Randy Francisco: 412-802-6161, randy.francisco@sierraclub.org
 Sasha Shyduroff: 412-802-6161, sasha@ssc.org
 William Kramer: 732-589-8024, william.kramer@sierraclub.org
 Rachel Martin: 412-802-6161, rachel.martin@sierraclub.org

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THE SIERRA CLUB IS POLITICALLY ACTIVE!

by Wendi Taylor

Sierra Club members who are interested in politics can find a home at the Sierra Club. The best place for a member to start is with the group political committee, which is an integral part of the club's political system.

The Sierra Club is politically active and works to elect candidates, who will vote for laws that protect the environment, conserve the nation's resources and preserve public lands and open spaces. It also supports paid lobbyists in Washington D.C. and many state capitals. To support its political activities, the club has a process to endorse candidates for office and procedure to work on their campaigns.

In June the Pennsylvania chapter sponsors a lobby day, where it invites members from across the state to come to Harrisburg and meet with their state representatives and senators to advocate for the most pressing issues on the environmental agenda. The Harrisburg office will help to arrange the meetings, provide talking points and someone to go along.

The Sierra Club's political chairs are the key volunteers to making the system work. Each group and chapter have a political chair, which work with the national political chair to support candidates to create and preserve a political landscape that is fertile ground for sound environmental policies and laws. They function on the local, state and national level. Political chairs are responsible for identifying candidates who would be good stewards of the environment, seeking endorsements and then organizing volunteers to work for the chosen candidates. At the same time, the club works with elected officials to educate them on environmental issues and assist them in advocating the club's positions. Those who are strong proponents of the environment are rewarded by the club with endorsements and volunteers to work for them during their campaigns.

Every candidate has to win two levels of endorsements – either group and state level endorsements or state and national level endorsements.

The Group and Chapter Political chairs recommend candidates for endorsement to their respective executive committees, where they discuss the candidates' merits and vote on their endorsements.

The Chapter maintains a Political Action Fund, which raises money to support candidates who are endorsed by the club.

The club generally bases endorsements on an incumbent candidate's environmental record. In addition, the Sierra Club prepares a questionnaire that candidates complete to be considered for an endorsement. In many instances, the club also interviews candidates before making a decision about whether to recommend an endorsement.

When several candidates from the same party have filed for the same office and in a district where that party dominates, the club may make an endorsement during the primary. Otherwise, the club waits until the General election to endorse a candidate, unless a strong candidate requests an early endorsement.

To determine voting records for incumbents in state races, the club relies on a scorecard that is compiled collaboratively by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club and groups, such as Clean Wa-

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ter Action. The scorecard shows how each incumbent voted on major environmental bills and their amendments. For federal races, the club uses the League of Conservation's scorecard, which has been published every year since 1970, when the group was formed.

It is more difficult to determine whether to endorse a strong challenger candidate over an incumbent. A challenger usually doesn't have a voting record, so the club relies on other things when considering an endorsement. Besides supporting our position on the questionnaire and during an interview, the challenger must be able to show that he or she has a chance to win in order to secure the club's endorsement. .

Because incumbents with consistently high scores over several years have a proven legislative voting record, the club endorses incumbents with a good voting record over challengers. The club will not throw overboard a candidate with a good environmental record for one that may be better on the environment. The club rewards a decent environmental voting record with its endorsement.

If a strong challenger with a chance to win faces an incumbent with a poor voting record, the club often would endorse the challenger because there is little to lose. However, if a challenger is luke warm on environmental issues and faces an incumbent with a poor to fair voting record, the club probably would not make an endorsement because it would have little to gain. If the incumbent isn't good enough to endorse but occasionally votes with the club, it would be unlikely to endorse the challenger because of the risk of alienating the incumbent. If the challenger loses, we've gained nothing by endorsing the challenger and lost an occasional ally. The better the challenger's chance to win, the more likely the club would consider an endorsement.

The questionnaire asks the candidate to list his or her greatest environmental achievements, the issues on which he or she would take the lead on if elected, and how he or she would vote on 12 to 16 specific issues. When completing the questionnaire, candidates are encouraged to add comments that would further explain their answers.

Questionnaires for federal candidates are prepared by the National political committee; while the questions for state candidates are prepared jointly by Sierra Club and other environmental organizations, like Clean Water Action.

Questionnaires provide insufficient information about a candidate. Most candidates will give pro-environmental answers to almost all questions – proof that it's easier to promise than to vote. That's why the club conducts interviews to determine if the candidate would be a reliable vote for the environment and become a future leader.

The Group political committees reviews the candidates running for office in districts in their Group boundaries, using voting records, questionnaires, and interviews to decide whether to recommend any candidates for endorsement to the Group Executive Committee. If the Group approves the endorsement, the candidate is recommended for endorsement to the Chapter executive committee, which will vote for or against endorsing the candidate.

For state offices, such as Pennsylvania State House, Chapter approval is the last step for endorsement. For National offices, such as U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate, and President, the endorsements must be approved by the Club's National political committee.

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National Club Director Supports a Moratorium on Fracking



Left to right Executive Director Michael Brune discusses Marcellus Shale drilling with Conservation Chair Tom Au.

Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune told Chapter members that the national organization supports a moratorium on deep shale drilling – fracking – in Pennsylvania and New York. However, he said the Club is not calling for a nationwide ban on deep shale drilling because some state chapters, such as Colorado, would not go along. Brune returned to his alma mater on March 16th to participate in a sustainability program at West Chester University. During his visit, Brune met with Club leaders and called upon the Chapter to go on an all-out campaign to sell the renewable energy solution to the residents of Pennsylvania. “Focus on the world we want to create instead of the word we want to avoid.”

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The Bottleneck Century: Early in the Great Climate Experiment

by John Rawlins

In the 2011 winter issue of *Sylvanian*, I introduced the link between our civilization's use of fossil fuel and an exponential increase in population during the 20th century. I also reported that recent assessments of all fossil fuel conventional resources conclude that their annual "production" rates will peak during the first part of the 21st century. The energy basis for our present world-wide production of everything will therefore steadily decline starting about now (with oil peaking now), and there are no affordable, scalable alternatives. In the sense of total population plus all our goods and food, we are entering this century in a state of overshoot, and world-wide decline will continue for the remainder of this century and into the next, until the world once again experiences a balance between available resources and the human presence.

So far, this is only a part of the bigger picture. We need to understand other critical long-term trends, such as climate change. The link between fossil fuel use and climate change is obvious: almost every carbon atom in hydro-carbons ends up in the form of carbon dioxide gas during the various combustion processes. The waste product of greatest concern, carbon dioxide gas, circulates in the atmosphere for centuries. The ocean absorbs some of it, thereby increasing ocean acidity, but atmospheric carbon dioxide absorbs infrared radiation emitted by the planet, warms the atmosphere, and is the dominant driver for climate change.

At this point in time, we have burned about half of all conventional fossil fuels, and only a tiny bit of unconventional reserves. We have caused about 0.8 C temperature rise (globally averaged increase), with about 0.6 C more 'in the pipeline' even if we stopped burning fossil fuels today. The lack of any significant progress around the world in slowing greenhouse gas emissions leads me to believe we WILL burn the second half of those conventional reserves, which will result in another 1.4 C temperature increase, for a total of about 3 C total temperature increase since the year 1800.

In the next three decades, we will have hit the limits to growth, which will cause massive economic stress throughout "free-market" capitalist economies.

What does this conclusion mean then in terms of the possibility of dangerous effects from anticipated climate change? The accumulated work of the International Panel on Climate Change, and in particular recent analyses by James Hansen actually answers that question as well as we can answer it today. A central problem is that, since the continents arranged themselves on the globe as we see them today (circa 2 million years ago), paleoclimate studies provide somewhat limited, but critical, evidence to base a conclusion on. The continental layout on the globe determines the distribution of ocean currents around the planet, hence the ocean heat circulation, which in turn is important to local climates, but is especially important at the poles. So climate information from, say, 60 million years ago is not very useful in extrapolating from now for a few centuries into the future.

THE BEST WE CAN SAY AT PRESENT SEEMS TO BE THE FOLLOWING:

1. The likelihood that we have already destabilized the northern arctic ice packs to the point of disappearance is very high. Greenland is melting much faster than anticipated even ten years ago. Complete melting there implies an ocean level rise of 7 meters (21 feet), with an unknown timeframe (currently estimated to be on the order of centuries). We are living an experiment.
2. Once global average temperature passes the 3 C mark, the likelihood that the Antarctic ice pack will melt is very high - up to another 20 meters of ocean level rise, with a timeframe on the order of millennia? We are living an experiment.
3. Somewhere in the progression to the 3 C mark, there is some probability (not known) that massive release of carbon (carbon dioxide as well as methane) from today's large arctic region carbon reservoirs (oceanic methane hydrates, or clathrates, and permafrost) will occur. This could stimulate a very large temperature increase in a very short timeframe, on the order of years or decades. This in turn could lead to a runaway greenhouse effect with the result of widespread species extinction, including ourselves. We are living an experiment.
4. To be sure we don't get into either number 2 or 3 territory, James Hansen says we need to limit carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere to 350 parts per million (ppm) - the genesis of Bill McKibben's 350.org movement, which I sense McKibben now feels has failed. The present concentration is close to 400 ppm and rising. I see absolutely no prospect of halting that increase, which would mean shutting down fossil fuel use now. Using all our conventional fuel reserves will result in something close to 500 ppm (not counting unknown feedbacks like oceanic and permafrost releases).

We are living an experiment, we refuse to quit, and a great many of us are corrupt or ignorant and are even blaming the messengers for what they claim is fraudulent and/or incompetent science.

In the next three decades, we will have hit the limits to growth, which will cause massive economic stress throughout "free-market" capitalist economies. In the longer term, living more simply will mean a return to subsistence living, especially growing one's own food - and that will very likely be more and more difficult as time goes on, because of a constantly changing climate. Places where billions now live will, with high likelihood, become uninhabitable.

Reference:

I am totally indebted to James Hansen and his recent book "Storms of My Grandchildren" and would be horribly embarrassed if I have misrepresented any of his conclusions - all of which seemed entirely reasonable and logical to me. He relies heavily on paleoclimate investigation results, and I completely agree with him that these are a better basis for predictions than just computer climate simulations that model what we know today. This is an easily readable and highly informative book, and I highly recommend it to you for bedtime reading. The crude estimates of the effects of burning all conventional fossil fuels are my own, and they agree with Hansen's more detailed analysis.

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ExploreEnjoyPennsylvania

Black Moshannon State Park

by Gary Thornbloom

Moshannon, “Moss-Hanne” or “moose stream”, the word alone was enough to captivate me 40 years ago when I was first introduced to Black Moshannon State Park. The waters are tea colored, from the plant tannins of the sphagnum bog natural area through which the headwaters of the lake flow. The lake is in a depression high on the Allegheny Plateau and provides a habitat not typical until hundreds of miles to the north.

Black Moshannon soon became my special place, and it was home for 20 years. It is 9 miles east of Philipsburg, Centre County on PA Route 504, and can be explored by land and by water.

By exploring the upper or southern end of the lake, you will soon leave most park visitors behind. Each season is a different experience. In summer, water lilies bloom in a spectacular display. Most are white, but some are pink, both are fragrant and beautiful. Spatterdock has large leaves that often extend above the water, and its flowers are yellow golf ball sized globes. Follow the channel south as far as you can paddle. Sit silently and watch for deer coming out to drink at the lakes edge as the sun sets beyond the western arm of the lake.

Dusk is a rewarding time to be on the lake. Listen for the deep base of bullfrogs as the sound builds, pushing through the silence. Watch for a V on the water surface. At the narrow part of the V is the



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beaver's nose. This is often followed by the splash of its tail, which can still startle me, as it warns other beavers that something is astray. Bats come out at dusk. It is thrilling to watch them dive and drop as they feed on insects. Let your boat drift toward the light part of the sky. If you are with other boats watch them in this light, you will be amazed at how close the bats come. Just remember, they are after the insects and not you!

The Bog Trail is a handicapped accessible 0.3-mile boardwalk, with an observation deck at the end. It has interpretive signs, and will introduce you to the wetland plants: sphagnum moss, sedges (sedges have edges) and rushes (rushes are round), as well as the carnivorous pitcher, sundew, and bladderwort plants. This short walk will also let you experience the wildlife of the lake.

The Moss-Hanne Trail winds for 7.7 miles around the south end of the lake and its several arms. The trail will take you through the Bog Natural Area, which Department of Conservation and Natural Resources calls "...one of the best examples of a bog ecosystem in the Allegheny Plateau region." The trail skirts both old and new beaver dams, which show the various stages of succession; pine plantations planted by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's; hardwood forests with some large black cherry trees; edges of the many wetland areas; thick hemlock stands; and, in July, you may find blueberries beginning to ripen on the many blueberry bushes. Once I shared a patch with a bear, as we picked berries at opposite ends.

One more trail to consider is the Shingle Mill Trail. Combined with a state forest road this is a 4-mile loop along Black Moshannon Creek. The creek is beautiful, and if the many rhododendrons are blooming. This is a beautiful walk.

Several miles east of the park is the Rattlesnake Fire Tower. There are fewer and fewer of these towers but you can still climb this one and the view is worth it.

A map that includes the lake, trails, and fire tower is available at the park office. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the July Meeting and Outing. Members of the Moshannon Group are looking forward to directing you to, or going with you to visit, some of the places that make Black Moshannon State Park an exceptional place that many of us have enjoyed for years.



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All Black Moshannon State Park photos on this and the previous page were provided by the photographer, Bill Mertens.

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Act Now to Protect the Delaware River

by Tom Au

Did you know that the Delaware River basin, which provides 15 million people with drinking water in our region, is at risk due to natural gas drilling?

The New York Times (“Regulation Lax as Gas Wells’ Tainted Water Hits Rivers”, New York Times, 2/27/2011) reported on the far reaching impacts of natural gas drilling and discovered how our drinking water could be at risk - radioactivity and other toxics top the list. The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) is currently considering rules on natural gas extraction.

The public has until April 15 to comment on the proposed rules that are being considered by the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). DRBC has legal mandate to protect the waters of the Delaware River. The DRBC should not permit gas exploration or drilling within the basin until gas drillers can ensure that the process is safe and will do no harm to our drinking water.

Tell the DRBC to hold these rules and not move forward until the other scientific studies are completed, such as the EPA’s study to assess the impacts to drinking water from hydrofracking. Such studies will inform the DRBC’s rulemaking to ensure our drinking water is protected.

The Sierra Club is recommending that DRBC:

- Place restrictions on the types of chemicals drillers may use, particularly limit or not allow use of chemicals that pose a threat to drinking water. Full disclosure to the public should be required.
- Require removal of all toxic chemicals and elements by wastewater treatment facilities prior to discharge.
- Eliminate “fast tracked” approvals that should not be allowed. All permits should be held to the same public scrutiny and accountability.
- Address the cumulative impacts of water withdrawals and well development. DRBC should set limits on how many wells can be drilled, and how close they can be spaced from each other.

To provide comments by mail, address the letter to:

Delaware River Basin Commission
Attn: Rulemaking
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

To comment electronically, use this link:

<https://secure2.convio.net/sierra/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=5863> Be sure to comment by April 15.

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Poem

Thaw

If I were a brook I would unwind
like a spool in the sun, shake my green
maracas with sequined stones.

If I were a beet in the soil I'd pulse
like a heart, pull myself out
of my muddy shroud.

If I were a bowl of new
steamed rice I'd curl fringes of steam
and float a grateful face above it.

All over the newly bare field, melting
voices— whispering, murmuring, sighing
and gurgling a hundred ways at once.

— Luisa A. Igloria

LUISA A. IGLORIA, author of *JUAN LUNA'S REVOLVER* (2009 Ernest Sandeen Prize, University of Notre Dame <http://undpress.nd.edu/book/P01279>), *TRILL & MORDENT* (WordTech Editions, 2005), and 8 other books, has degrees from the University of the Philippines, Ateneo de Manila University, and the University of Illinois at Chicago. She teaches at Old Dominion University, and directs the MFA Creative Writing Program. She keeps her radar tuned for cool lizard sightings. www.luisaigloria.com

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Announcements

A Challenge to Protect Wildlife and Habitat in Pennsylvania 14th Annual Huplits Wildlife Grant Competition

The Sierra Club's Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee is again seeking proposals for grants that will help protect wildlife and wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania. Approximately \$45,000 will be available for the 2011 Huplits Wildlife Grants program. Around five grants are awarded each year.

Application guidelines:

- We request projects that directly impact wildlife in the Commonwealth on a regional or statewide level.
- A grant project may involve public education, litigation, land acquisition, etc.
- Generally, projects will be funded for no more than two years. Under special circumstances a project may be extended.

A proposal should include Overall Goal, Objectives, Major Activities, Resources Required, Timelines, and a reasonably detailed Budget.

DEADLINE: Please submit proposals before APRIL 30, 2011 to Christopher Seymour via e-mail at tophseymour@gmail.com. If you have any questions, contact Chris via email or call 412-559-9535.

Island Hopping in Channel Islands National Park

July 16-19; July 30- August 2; September 9-11; October 17-19

Explore the wild, windswept islands of Channel Island National Park. Enjoy the frolicking seals and sea lions. Train your binoculars on unusual sea and land birds. Hike the trails to find blankets of wildflowers and plants found in no other place on earth. Kayak or snorkel the pristine waters--- or just relax at sea. These live-aboard, eco tours depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' twin diesel Turth. Fee (\$785 for July trips; \$590 for September and October) includes an assigned bunk, all meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will travel with us to lead hikes, call attention to items of interest and present evening programs.

To make a reservation mail a \$100 check, payable to Sierra Club to leader: Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. Contact leader for more information (626-443-0706; jholtzhln@aol.com)

Natural Gas Expert to Speak in Centre County

May 10th, 7:00 p.m.

The Moshannon Group has booked a well-known Cornell professor and myth-buster on natural gas shale drilling to speak in Centre County on Tuesday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

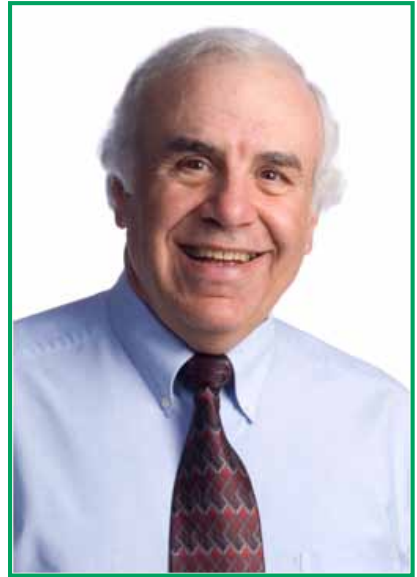
Professor Anthony Ingraffea will discuss the Development of Natural Gas from Shales: Some Myths and Realities.

During his presentation Ingraffea will evaluate myths and facts concerning some of the more notable issues involved in development of unconventional natural gas wells in shale formations. Among these are:

- Such development is a 60-year-old well-proven technology
- Operators in Pennsylvania are recycling 90 percent or more of their fluid wastes
- Gas migration from faulty wells is a rare phenomenon
- Natural gas is a clean fossil fuel

The exact location of the presentation was not confirmed at press time. For an update, please check the Web site: www.sierramsh.org

Dr. Ingraffea is the Dwight C. Baum Professor of Engineering and a Weiss Presidential Teaching Fellow at Cornell University. He did research and development for the oil and gas industry for 25 years, specializing in hydraulic fracture simulation and pipeline safety, and twice won the National Research Council/U.S. National Committee for Rock Mechanics Award for Research in Rock Mechanics. He became a Fellow of the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1991, became Co-Editor-in-Chief of Engineering Fracture Mechanics in 2005, won American Society for Testing and Materials' (AMTS) George Irwin Award for outstanding research in fracture mechanics in 2006, and in 2009 was named a Fellow of the International Congress on Fracture. Recently, he has been deeply engaged in informal education regarding the topic of this lecture with over 50 public presentations over the last year.



Dr. Ingraffea is the Dwight C. Baum Professor of Engineering and a Weiss Presidential Teaching Fellow at Cornell University

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BookReview

Greer Predicts the Future

by Phil Coleman



BOOK REVIEW: THE ECOTECHNIC FUTURE

NEW SOCIETY PUBLISHERS, 2009

People who believe our energy consuming economy can go on indefinitely will find this to be a pessimistic book. On the other hand, those who believe, as I do, that our fossil fuel dependency cannot go on much longer will find it to be rather optimistic.

John Michael Greer begins by describing the problem that confronts us. Using metaphors based on evolution and forest succession to describe our growing dependence on oil, coal, and gas, and our burgeoning population, he predicts that our fossil fuel economy will fail sometime this century, perhaps by mid-century.

Greer then describes a succession of “ages” the world will undergo: scarcity industrialism, salvage, and, ultimately, the ecotechnic age.

It is a given in this dystopia Greer projects that the world’s population, presently 7 Billion, growing toward 14 Billion in seventy years, will decline. Greer anticipates a decline to a fraction, a small fraction of the present 7 Billion. “Malnutrition, epidemic disease and child mortality driven by failing public health, and social factors such as alcoholism, drug abuse, violence and suicide” will take their toll. Even so, Greer does not dwell on these problems or this decline. Instead, if you ignore the few paragraphs on decline, you might read through the rest of the book wondering if we don’t continue to be as populous as we are now.

Greer’s optimistic tone is undergirded by his assertion that we are mistaken when we think of evolution as progress. To him, as to Darwin, evolution is adaption to circumstances. Change isn’t necessarily for better except that it is for success. Our age is not necessarily better than the pre-industrial age. We are not necessarily better than primitive cultures. Our failure will lead to something different, not necessarily something worse.

He is right, of course. If we look around us, we find a great deal in our lifestyles that we do not admire – profligacy, hedonism, meanness, etc. But there is also much to admire – especially in learning, knowledge, science, literary and artistic accomplishment, social justice, etc. And we are likely to lose much more than we preserve.

We worry about retaining all we have learned in the last century. We could not have learned without our fuel-supported access to micro and mega aspects of our world. Without electronic storage and communication, we may not even be able to retain our knowledge. Much of Greek learning was lost during the Dark Ages. Some of it was relearned. Will our descendants relearn the things we value?

In the world that succeeds ours, is it even worth relearning?

Greer provokes us to ask these questions. Greer’s book is an intellectual challenge. Can you read it and disagree? Where he guesses at various futures, can you suggest alternatives?

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Rocky Ridge Natural Area – Spectacular!

by Stan Kotala

Rothrock State Forest, named for Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, the “Father of Forestry” in Pennsylvania, comprises 96,000 acres that spread across the rugged ridges of Huntingdon, Centre and Mifflin counties. This State Forest includes six natural areas set aside to protect unique or unusual biologic, geologic, scenic and historical features or to showcase outstanding examples of the state’s major forest communities. Natural areas are “managed” by nature and direct human intervention is limited. They provide places for scenic observation, protect special plant and animal communities, and conserve outstanding examples of natural beauty.

Rocky Ridge Natural Area in northern Huntingdon County is a great place to enjoy spectacular geologic formations and great scenery. The Natural Area itself consists of 150 acres of rich, mixed-oak woodland that supports numerous wildflowers among magnificent exposures of Oriskany sandstone and limestone.

Rothrock State Forest also includes 16 miles of the 70-mile Standing Stone Trail (SST). The SST connects the Tuscarora Trail at Cowans Gap State Park with the Mid State Trail (MST) at Greenwood Furnace State Park, hence its original name of the Link Trail. The SST follows scenic ridgelines in Hunt-

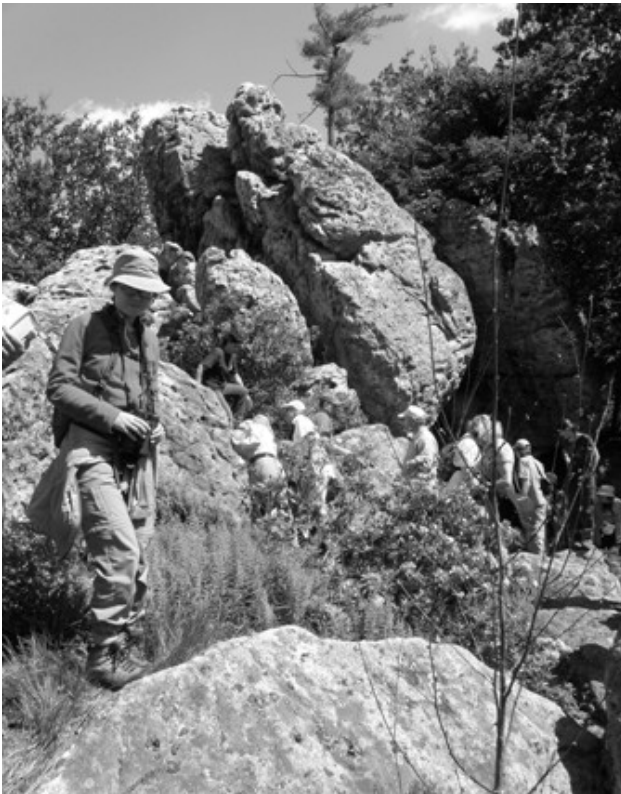
ingdon, Mifflin, and Fulton counties.

In the Rocky Ridge Natural Area the Standing Stone Trail passes through Oriskany sandstone rock formations that offer scenic interest to hikers.

Start this hike by parking at the intersection of Frew Road and the orange-blazed Standing Stone Trail. There is ample parking all along Frew Road in this area. Begin the hike on the right (west) side of the road by following the orange blazes. The trail descends to a small stream which can be crossed on a rock bridge. The area near the stream supports a large colony of Christmas ferns, an evergreen species that formerly was collected for holiday decorations.

The trail ascends a somewhat steep slope up Brush Ridge for about 1/8 of a mile before entering the giant rock formations. Make sure that you follow the orange blazes through the mazes among the boulders. Many of the rocks are covered with lichens, mosses, and ferns.

When you reach the power line corridor, you will see the Wetzels Trail



that descends back into the valley from which you came, but you will continue to follow the orange-blazed SST along the ridge. To the east is Stone Mountain and to the west Stone Valley. Between Brush Ridge, along which the trail meanders, and Stone Mountain is Frew Road, along which your vehicle is parked.

As you hike south past the power line, many more examples of Oriskany sandstone formations and breathtaking views over Stone Valley will be encountered. You will notice a few short trails marked by yellow blazes. These are side trails off the Standing Stone Trail. If you wish, you can follow these to several points of interest. Table Mountain pine, pitch pine and white pine are more common along this segment of the trail, most of which is on the western side of Brush Ridge. The pines, along with stands of mountain laurel, add green to the winter scenery here.

About a mile south of the powerline, one of the yellow-blaze side trails will take you to Hunter's Rocks, a magnificent cluster of immense house-size boulders. Several of these boulders form sheltered areas convenient as escapes from rain or snow. This is a great place to take a rest and have some snacks, as it is also the half-way point of this 3-mile hike.

After taking a break, retrace your steps back to the orange-blazed SST and follow it downslope toward Frew Road. You will come to a switchback at the intersection of another trail with yellow blazes, known as the Old Link Trail. Follow the yellow-blazed Old Link Trail back along the eastern side of Brush Ridge, paralleling Frew Road.

This side of the ridge is underlain with limestone, and a series of sinkholes can be seen along the Old Link Trail. The vegetation is also different from that on the western side of Brush Ridge. The pitch pines and mountain laurel which are found on the western side are replaced by tulip trees, shagbark hickories, sugar maples, basswoods and cucumber magnolias, as well as large numbers of white oaks.

The yellow-blazed Old Link Trail again merges with the orange-blazed SST a few hundred feet before reaching the power line that you crossed earlier. Upon reaching the power line, turn downslope for about a hundred feet and you will see the yellow-blazed Bypass Trail on the other side of the power line clearing. Follow the Bypass Trail back along the eastern slope of Brush Ridge, with the large outcrops to your left. The Bypass Trail then joins the SST again, which you will follow downslope towards Frew Road, retracing your first steps of the day back to your vehicle.

Rocky Ridge Natural Area is a fascinating destination because of its unique geological setting, topography, and flora. Be sure to return in spring, when wildflowers of many varieties abound in this dramatic setting.

RESOURCES

Two maps that are useful for this trip are the Rothrock State Forest map http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/ucmprd1/groups/public/documents/document/D_000870.pdf and the Standing Stone Trail Club map of the trail in the Rocky Ridge Natural Area http://www.hike-sst.org/SST-1_10-7-10.pdf

If you go: From State College, take Rt 26 south 20 miles to Martin Gap Road, which will be on your left. Follow Martin Gap Road into Rothrock State Forest and bear right onto Frew Road. Travel on Frew Road for about ¼ mile and look for the orange blazes on both sides of Frew Road, denoting its intersection with the Standing Stone Trail (a black and yellow gate is on the left side of the road in this area). Park along the road.

Dr. Stan Kotala is the Outings Chair for the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club, www.sierramsh.org

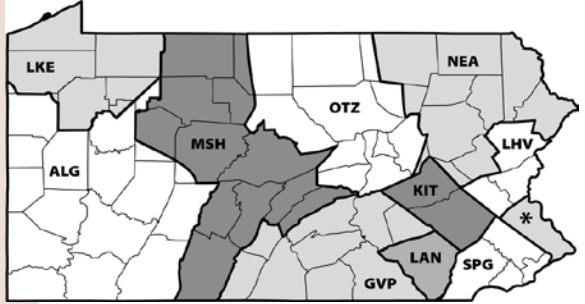
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Meetings & Outings

For up-to-date information, start times, meeting points, & directions, please see your Group's website or newsletter, or contact the Sierra Club members listed below.

Groups may plan events & outings after *The Sylvanian* goes to press & those listed here may change. Participants on outings must sign a liability waiver, available from www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms or from the Outings Department at 415-977-5528.

Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling & assumes no liability.



Allegheny Group

www.alleghenysc.org

MEETINGS

Allegheny Group meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The public is welcome at no charge. Meetings are usually followed by refreshments, conversation and a time to connect with representatives and officials about conservation action. Contact Donald Gibbon at dongibbon@earthlink.net with questions or suggestions.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Ask leaders for carpool & contact information. Structured rates for carpooling fees based on distance. Please reserve 36 hours in advance. Interested in leading outings? Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net

Saturday, April 9 - Do an easy 6-8 mile hike in Keystone State Park. Meet at the bathhouse parking lot at 10 AM. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012

Saturday, April 16 - Canoe- and Kayak to Murphy's Island near Freeport. We will have a cookout and a nearby hike. Canoes, kayaks and life preservers are provided. \$4.00 carpool - 20 miles from Harmarville. Meet at Bob Evans Restaurant in the parking lot behind the restaurant at 10 AM. Limit 10. Call to reserve because equipment is limited. Call Ed Divers, 412-828-5154.

Sunday, April 17 - Hike an intermediate 8.5 miles on the north end of Laurel Highlands Trail from Seward to the

radio tower and return. Most of this route runs along the south rim of Conemaugh Gorge where the Conemaugh River cuts through Laurel Ridge. Views should be great this time of year. The earliest wildflowers should be appearing and we should see remnants of the historic quarrying operations that were once active there. Suggested Carpool fee \$8.00 - 51 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993

Sunday, April 23 - Enjoy a 11-mile loop hike in Frick Park, Homewood Cemetery and Schenley Park. Call John Dern, 412-856-4642.

Saturday, Apr 30 - The Four Forks of Mill Creek; One of my favorite hikes, taught to me by a legendary Sierra Club trip leader, this hike is on the western slopes of Laurel Ridge, north of Laughlintown. Mill Creek has four forks: the North Fork, the South Fork, the Left Fork, and the Right Fork. The trick is to try to hike to all four forks in one day, requiring a trek of about 12-14 miles and substantial bushwacking. If you are up for this kind of challenge, call Jim Ritchie at 412-576-0849 for more information and reservations.

Sunday, May 1 - Easy 1.5-mile hike (2 hours) in Seldom Seen Greenway (Beechview Area). Meet at the far end of Brashear High School's parking lot at 590 Crane Ave. in Beechview at 1:30 PM. Call John or Kathy Murphy, 412-341-9367, or Bill Lawrence, 412-922-3951.

Sunday, May 8 - Do an intermediate 8-mile loop hike in North Park. Meet in Harmarville behind Bob Evans Restaurant. Contact the leader to learn the meeting time. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Saturday, May 14 - Hike about 6 miles on the trails of the North Woods Area in Forbes State Forest on Laurel Ridge. Meet at the Donegal McDonalds on Rt.31 at 10:30 AM. If you prefer to organize carpools at the Gateway Middle School in Monroeville, contact the leader. Suggested

carpool fee for Monroeville carpools \$6.00 for the 31 miles each way. Call Diane Neely, 724-459-3012.

Saturday, May 14 - Sunday, May 15 - Beginners' backpacking trip in Quebec Run Wild Area of Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge. Much of the route will be along the more scenic streams of the area - Mill Run, Quebec Run and possibly sections of Tebolt Run. The area will be in the green-up stage and wildflowers should still be abundant. We will camp out on the banks of scenic Mill Run, hopefully in a grove of large hemlocks. We will do 4.7 miles on Day 1 and 4.1 miles on Day 2. There is one long steep trail near the end of the trip but there is a sneak route if you choose. We should have time to check out the remains of an ancient gristmill along Mill Run. This trip will qualify you for more advanced trips in Monongahela National Forest where scenery is more spectacular than anything in Pennsylvania. Limit: 12. Suggested carpool fee \$11 -- 65 miles. Meet at Gateway Middle School at 8 AM. Directions to the trailhead will be provided to signups, and topo maps showing trail routes will be handed out at the trailhead. Contact Bruce Sundquist, 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net This will be a joint trip with Pittsburgh Hiking Meetup Group so there may be a waiting list.

Sunday, May 22 - Hiking at Laurel Mountain. We have Laurel Ridge, Laurel Mountain, Laurel Hill, Laurel Summit and more. These are names attached to places on the map. Laurel Mountain usually refers to the area in and around the Mellons' old Laurel Mountain ski area, on Summit Road, off US Route 30. We'll start hiking at the XC ski warming hut along Summit Road and maybe head down Beam Road to Laurel Summit, make a pass at Wolf Rocks, and then maybe take Edy-Rector Road down into Linn Run valley. Or maybe not. The only real agenda will be the starting point. This will be an intermediate-level, 8-mile, shuttle hike starting in the Laurel Mountain area. Call Jim Ritchie at 412-576-0849 for more information and reservations.

Saturday, May 28 to Monday, May 30 - Backpacking on Dolly Sods North. This area of Allegheny Front is higher, more open, and more scenic than Dolly Sods Wilderness that is just to the south. We will do only about 16 miles over the three days to allow for exploring and sight-seeing. This is meant to be a fairly leisurely trip, but even then, the area is no place for beginners. So prior backpacking experience is required. We will be on, or close to, the Eastern Continental Divide for about a third of the trip. The trailhead on Day 1 is in the Bear Rocks parking lot on FR75. We will start with lunch atop Bear Rocks with its views over numerous ridges to the east and Dolly Sods North to the west. We take Bear Rocks Trail and Raven

Ridge Trail through high, open, country to our campsite that is well hidden just off the trail in a spruce grove at a high point of Raven Ridge. This Raven Ridge campsite offers views of Allegheny Front to the east (including Bear Rocks) and Cabin Mountain to the West. These mark the eastern rim and western rim of the huge bowl that defines the Dolly Sods area. The campsite also provides broad views of the headwaters of Red Creek to the east, and Left Fork of Red Creek to the west. There are few better areas in the Mid-Atlantic States for stargazing that this campsite. Day 2: Take Rocky Ridge Trail along the crest of Cabin Mountain. It offers broad vistas of Canaan Valley and the drainage of the Left Fork of Red Creek. It is one of the most outstanding trails in Dolly Sods North. We then drop down to cross Left Fork and proceed to the Forks of Red Creek and the most popular campsite area in Dolly Sods Wilderness. A huge natural water slide, some waterfalls and several swimming holes are some attractions. On the second night of three-day weekends the campsite is not crowded. Day 3: Return to the cars via Red Creek Trail, Blackbird Knob Trail, Upper Red Creek Trail, Dobbins Grade Trail and Bear Rocks Trail. Lunch will again be on Bear Rocks. Weather (even summer weather) at this high altitude can be severe. Recent years have seen more bear warnings (bears invading campsites) but, with a sizeable group, this should be no problem. Limit: 12. If you want to learn more about this outstanding area, read pages 185 to 200 of Edition 8 of Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide put out by the West Va. Highlands Conservancy (paperback, or CD). Visit <http://www.wvhighlands.org>. A carpool fee of \$25 is suggested for the 145-mile (each way) trip from Monroeville. Contact Bruce Sundquist at 724-327-8737 or bsundquist1@windstream.net. A detailed 4-page trip sheet plus road directions to the trailhead will be sent out about a week before the trip. Topo maps showing all the trails will be handed out at the trailhead. Depart Monroeville (Gateway Middle School) at 7 AM Saturday; return between 6 and 7 PM Monday (depending on whether we stop for supper).

Sunday, June 5 - Cycle Ghost Town Trail Bike path along Blacklick Creek in Indiana County from Blacklick to Dilltown and return. 26 miles round trip. Suggested carpool fee \$5.50 - 37 miles. Call Donna Allen, 412-372-2993.

Sunday, June 12 - Do a 6+ mile loop hike in Harrison Hills Regional Park. Meet in Harmarville behind the Bob Evans' Restaurant. Ask the leader about meeting time. Call Judy or Don Ziegler, 412-826-0519.

Governor Pinchot Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchotMEETINGS

Governor Pinchot Group monthly Meetings are held the last Tuesday of the month at 6:30 in the evening. Call Jack Flatley at 717-921-2708 for location or email at riverman17018@comcast.net OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For info on Governor Pinchot Group activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/pinchot.

Kittatinny Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks

MEETINGS

Kittatinny Executive Committee meets monthly. All members welcome. For more info, contact Jim Keller at 484-769-0537 or keller.james.m@gmail.com

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For up-to-date listings of activities, see pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/berks/calendar.htm.

Lancaster Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lancasterMEETINGS

Business meetings of the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club are held on the third Wednesday of every month (except July and December) as follows: March 16; April 20; May 18; and June 15. All meetings are open to the public and begin at 6:30 p.m. They are held in Lancaster Country Day School (Room 111), 725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster. Parking is available in the school's parking lot.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

The Sierra Club-Lancaster Group has slated a number of spring outings or events, to which all people are invited.

Wednesday, April 6, at 7 p.m.- Presentation on wind power by Ray Heisey, Lancaster area installer of wind energy systems.

Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m. - Presentation on Green Cleaning by Brinton Culp, member of the Sierra Club's Lancaster Group.

Saturday, April 23 (time and place to be determined) - Trail Cleanup (Earth Day observance).

Wednesday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m. - Presentation on watersheds by Matt Kofroth, watershed specialist for the Lancaster County Conservation District.

For more outing details, please contact Jennifer B. Ericson at jericson@ezsolution.com or 717-892-2026, or visit the website, www.lancastersierraclub.org

Lake Erie Group

MEETINGS

Business meetings are held the second Thursday of every other month at the Asbury Wood Education Center, on Asbury Road in Erie, starting at 6:30 pm to 8 p.m.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

For information on Lake Erie Group outings and activities, contact Chuck Benson at bensonville@aol.com

Lehigh Valley Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv

MEETINGS

The Lehigh Valley Group Executive Committee meets at 7 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month. However, the April meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15. All members are welcome to attend the Executive Committee meetings. This is where we do our strategic planning & receive updates on current projects. The meetings are held in the 6th floor conference room of the Fowler Center, Northampton Community College, Third and Buchanan Street, Bethlehem, PA 18015.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit their website for updated outing information. For up-to-date information on outings & activities see www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/lv

Moshannon Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon

MEETINGS

Moshannon Group meetings are on the first Tuesday of month at 7 p.m. at Clear Water Conservancy, State College. All members & guests welcome. For more info, contact Gary Thornbloom at 814-353-3466 via bearknob@verizon.net.

OUTINGS

All outings open to general public & members. All levels of ability and interest are encouraged to participate.

Moshannon Group's outings are at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

Saturday, March 19 — Hiking above the Horseshoe Curve: Come enjoy the early signs of spring and view an area where a town once stood. Meet at the Horseshoe Curve in Altoona at 10 a.m. Contact Deb Tencer at naturehikergal@gmail.com for details.

Saturday, April 9 — Timberdoodles at Canoe Creek State Park: The park has a variety of wetlands and old fields that provide ideal habitat for woodcocks. Observe the fascinating and unique flight of the timberdoodles. Meet at Pavilion 1 at 7:30 p.m. Contact Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840 for more details.

Sunday, April 10 — Early Wildflower Drive: Dave and Marcia Bonta will lead a driving tour of some prime wildflower spots in our area to look for hepatica, bloodroot, trout lily and Jeffersonian. Due to the impact of deer browsing on more pristine sites, many of the best viewing areas for wildflowers are on the steep slopes along roads and highways. Meet at 10 a.m. at Advance Auto Parts on Rt 22 in Huntingdon and pack a lunch. Contact the Bontas at 814-686-7274 for more details.

Sunday, April 16 — Nature Hike along the Lower Trail: Join Deb Tencer at the Water Street Flea Market at the intersection of Rt 22 and Rt 453 at 10 a.m. and hike a couple miles down along the river. This area is known for the massive amounts of trillium and Dutchman's breeches each spring. You cant miss this one! Any questions contact Deb Tencer at naturehikergal@gmail.com

Saturday, April 30 — Lower Trail Wildflower Walk: Juniata Valley Audubon's Alice Kotala will lead an hour-long wildflower walk in the area around the Flowing Spring trailhead. Bring a wildflower guide book if you have one. Meet at the Flowing Springs trailhead at 2 p.m. Contact Alice Kotala at 814-946-8840 for more details.

Saturday May 7 — International Migratory Bird Day #1 (a.m.): Annual favorite to see as many as 100 bird species during the peak of spring migration. Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park Environmental Education Center at 8 a.m. Contact Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840 for more details.

Saturday May 7 — International Migratory Bird Day #2 (p.m.): Annual favorite to see as many as 50 bird species during the peak of spring migration. Meet at the Lower Trail Flowing Springs trailhead at 7 p.m. Contact Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840 for more details.

Sunday, May 8 — Annual Terry Wentz Memorial Hike: Honoring the former Canoe Creek State Park manager who served on the Juniata Valley Audubon board for more than a decade. Four-mile moderate hike on the Moore's Hill Trail to observe birds and wildflowers. Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park Environmental Education Center at 2pm. Contact Stan Kotala by email or at 814-946-8840 for more details.

Saturday, May 28 — Brush Mountain Preserve: Join Deb Tencer to hike the trails of this beautiful preserve, home

to the PA Threatened Allegheny woodrat. This 2-hour hike is easy and, if the timing is right, the mountain laurel and possibly the azaleas will be in bloom. Meet at Panera Bread in the Logan Town Centre off I-99's 17th Street Exit at Altoona at 10 a.m. and we can carpool. Any questions contact Deb Tencer at naturehikergal@gmail.com

Northeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern

MEETINGS

Members are always welcomed and encouraged to join us each month for our executive committee meetings, where we plan activities & group priorities. Meetings held on first Tuesday of each month, usually at 7 p.m. and meeting sites vary. For more information, contact Jen Lavery at JenLavery@aol.com.

OUTINGS

For more information, please visit the website.

Otzinachson Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson

MEETINGS

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of every other month. For more information, please visit the website.

For more information contact:

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, 570-672-2389 pshaw@ptd.net

Sunday, April 3 - Williamsport Water Authority - 7 miles, moderate. Come join us for a beautiful early spring hike along the creeks and among the mountain laurel in the Bald Eagle Mountains near Williamsport. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Williamsport Water Authority parking lot. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Sue Wright 570-323-2411. Call Sue if you need directions.

Sunday April 10 - Loyalsock Trail - 6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8 45 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Saturday, April 16 - Watsontown Towpath Trail - 2 miles, easy. A nature walk observing turtles, birds, and wildflowers along the towpath. Meet at 11:00 at the parking lot on the south side of the Watsontown bridge. Leader: Dave Hafer 570-523-3107. Bad weather cancels.

Sunday, April 17 - Mid State Trail - 10 miles, strenuous. We will be hiking the renowned Mid State Trail from Mohn Mill Road north to Ravensburg State Park (along Rt. 880).

Meet at the parking lot behind the Lewisburg Post Office at 9 a.m. or at the park office parking lot at Ravensburg at 9:45. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw 570-672-2389 or pshaw@ptd.net.

Sunday, May 1 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Mid State Trail south to the Fallen Timber Trail to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Saturday, May 7 - Gillespie Point to Bohemian Run Falls Loop - 11 miles, strenuous. A classic hike! From Blackwell, we will climb to the top of Pennsylvania's Matterhorn, Gillespie Point with fine views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. After looping back to Blackwell, we will continue on the Bohemian Run Falls Trail to the West Rim Trail, then back to Blackwell on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Meet at parking lot behind Lewisburg Post Office at 8 a.m. or boat launch parking lot in Blackwell at 9:30. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Duane Button 570-596-3454.

Saturday, May 14 - Michaux State Forest and Tumbling Run - 7.5 miles, moderate to strenuous. This loop hike features the only waterfalls in Cumberland County as well as the famous Lewis's Rocks, hideout of the notorious Lewis the Robber. On the return trip we will follow the Appalachian Trail with a stop at Camp Michaux, a former WWII Prisoner of War camp. Meet at K-Mart parking lot along Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam at 8:15 a.m. or at the store at Pine Grove Furnace State Park at 10:00. Bring water and a lunch. Hike Leaders: Carl and Bonnie Davis (717) 532-3696 bldavis@kuhncom.net.

Sunday, May 15 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Mid State Trail north and other trails to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday May 22 - Old Loggers Path - 12 miles, strenuous. We will hike the southern section of OLP from Masten Ghost Town to Pleasant Stream Road, with fine views. Meet 8:45 at the Steam Valley Restaurant on Route 14 just off Route 15, north of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707. (We may have to add an additional 2 miles if Pleasant Stream Road remains closed as it has been for the past year).

Sunday, June 5 - Golden Eagle Trail - 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets

(Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 9:10 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

Sunday, June 12 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Overlook Trail and powerline to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Saturday, June 18 - Rocky Knob Trail - 11 miles, strenuous. We will hike in the Michaux state forest district, north of Caledonia State Park. Access to the 4-mile Rocky Knob loop will be gained by hiking the Appalachian Trail from Dead Woman Hollow Road to Methodist Hill Road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Snyder County Produce located along Rte. 11/15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring water and lunch. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence; cathyed@nationi.net or call 570-925-5285.

Sunday, June 19 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday, June 26 - Mid State Trail - 11 miles, strenuous. We will hike one of the newest sections of the MST, a scenic traverse between Hammond Lake and Hills Creek Lake east of Wellsboro in Tioga County. Meet at parking lot behind Lewisburg Post Office at 7:30 am or along Hills Creek Road by Hills Creek State Park entrance at 9:30 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Duane Button 570-596-3454.

Sunday, July 10 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday, July 17 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Overlook Trail and powerline to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday July 24 - Loyalsock Trail - 6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8:45 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

Sunday, July 31 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Sunday, August 7 - R.B. Winter State Park - 10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

Saturday, August 20 - Fourth Run Loop - 13 miles, strenuous. This loop hike will make a grand tour of the extensive trail system at Hickory Run State Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the McDonalds off Rte. 80 at the Mifflinville/Rt. 339 exit #242. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence; cathyed@nationi.net or call 570-925-5285.

Sunday, August 21 - Golden Eagle Trail - 9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 9:10 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

Southeastern Group

pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern

MEETINGS

Executive Committee meets the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Whole Foods Community Room, 20th & Callowhill Sts, Philadelphia. To confirm the meeting date and location, contact 215-820-7872.

OUTINGS & PROGRAMS

Please visit the website for updated outing information. For more information on any event, contact Bill Brainerd at 610-325-3127 or billbrainerd@gmail.com.

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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

(from page 55)

Across

2. MOSHANNON
5. SAM HAYS
8. FRACKING
10. BEET
11. HUPLITS
12. DAN SCHREFFLER
13. CLIMATE CHANGE

Down

1. BATS
3. OTZINACHSON
4. JEFF SCHMIDT
6. MICHAEL BRUNE
7. WHITE
9. DELAWARE

Chapter Directory

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Associate Representatives: Randy Francisco, Hillary Bright (Blue Green Alliance)

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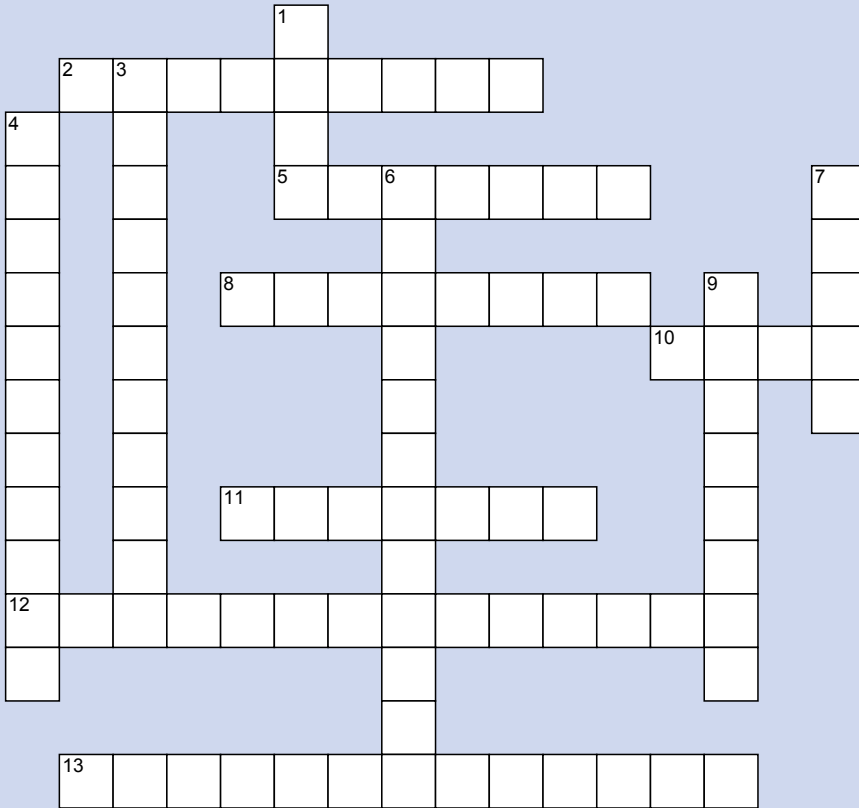
Randy Francisco (412) 802-6161

SUSTAINABILITY TEAM

Rachel Martin (412) 802-6161

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SpringCrossword



Across

- 2 Black _____ State Park
- 5 _____ started environmental archives at PITT
- 8 Loosening gas from shale
- 10 If I were a _____ I'd pull myself out
- 11 _____ wildlife grants
- 12 Webmaster
- 13 Greenhouse gasses contribute to _____

Down

- 1 Small footed _____
- 3 Group with lots of space, few members
- 4 SPEL lobbyist
- 6 Executive Director
- 7 _____ nosed syndrome
- 9 River that supplies drinking water for 15 million

Answers can be found on Page 52

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