



OTZINACHSON

Mountaintop Removal Mining

by Jack Miller

Inside this issue:

Chair Message	2
Join a CSA	3
Calendar Order Form	3
Trout Run Under Attack	4
Editor's Bookmarks	4
Otzinachson Executive Board Ballot Form	5
Simplify Your Holidays	7

QUOTE

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

~Ansel Adams

Join us on Sunday, February 24th at 2PM in the Union –Snyder Senior Center on 116 N. Second St. in Lewisburg to learn more about the horrific practice of Mountaintop Removal Mining. Without Congressional approval, the current administration made a rule change to the Clean Water Act of 1977. This rule change is devastating the beautiful Appalachian Mountains. The Clean Water Act prohibited industries from dumping waste into waterways. But the current administration redefined the world "fill" so that it now exempts mining waste and thus permits the environmentally disastrous practice of mountaintop removal.

The process of mountaintop removal mining begins with clear cutting the entire mountain top of trees. The devastation is made worse by the practice of wasting this timber. It is simply burned so that the coal can be gotten even more quickly. After the deforestation, the top of the mountain is literally removed so that the coal can be mined. Our mountains are being ruined, one by one. Permit by permit. More than 400,000 acres of Appalachia's mountains have been leveled and more than 1000 miles of streams have been buried by mountaintop removal mining.

Our speaker is Barbara Strangfeld who is a volunteer for Appalachian Voices. She is currently a resident of Clarks Summit. She previ-

ously was an activist in Ulster County, New York where she was an activist in many causes. She has received awards from the Friends of the Woodlawn Preserve and the Mohawk-Hudson Sierra Club. In 2006 Barbara was given the city's highest honor when she was named a Patron of the City of Schenectady. ☐

Save the Mountains

The Bush Administration's Office of Surface Mining (OSM) is proposing rules to relax environmental regulations in such a way that the coal industry would be able to use "mountain top removal" mining techniques to devastate more mountains, nearby communities and streams. Hundreds of mountains in the U.S. already have been lost to this coal-mining method and, if approved, the Bush rules could pave the way for the leveling of 700 more mountains over the next 10 years. Please speak out today to save America's mountains and nearby communities!

Visit www.700mountains.org and watch a 7 minute preview of "Burning the Future: Coal in America" — this site also enables you to voice your opposition by sending a message to your member of Congress on the issue.

Message from the Chair: Take Action

Recently a group of five went to Congressman Carney's district office in Williamsport to press for a strong energy bill to come out of Congress. Dave Hafer and I went representing the Otzinachson Group, Joanne Schweinsberg from Seven Mountains Audubon, Sam Pearson from Local Action Network and Jason Brady from the Sierra Club's BEC office in Philadelphia comprised the group. This is the third visit that the Otzinachson has made to a political leader who represents part of the group's area. In September a group of four of our members had a long and wide ranging discussion with State Representative Russ Fairchild. In the spring, I along with members of the Northeast Group of the Sierra Club visited with Rep. Carney in his Clarks Summit Office. This is a critical time for political action because there is a great deal of environmental legislation on both the state and federal levels. We are doing our best to promote the environmental cause.

Elected officials want to hear from their constituents. We need more of you to become involved so that we can have contact with more elected officials. Because we are a volunteer organization, we can only accomplish as much as members are involved.

If your schedule does not allow you to actively participate, I would ask you to go www.sierraclub.org and click onto "take action". Here with just a few clicks you can send an e-mail to your congressmen and senators of key environmental legislation. It is a simple way for you to be counted for strong environmental action. Your action will count.

Jack Miller, Chair

Attend a Meeting!!

All Sierra Club members & interested non-members are welcome!!!

All meetings are held at 7:00 P.M.
First Baptist Church
51 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg

Visit <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Otzinachson> to obtain a 2008 schedule of meetings

OTZINACHSON

Executive Committee:

Jack Miller, Middleburg; **Chair**
Dave Hafer, Lewisburg; **Vice Chair**
Roy Fontaine, Watsontown; **Treasurer/Secretary**
Joe Detelj, Lewisburg; Agriculture/CAFO
Ed Lawrence, Orangeville; Program
Nicole Faraguna, Herndon; Conservation Chair
Sam Pearson, Lewisburg; Global Warming/Sprawl
David Young, Lewisburg

Committee Chairs:

Genley Anderson, Williamsport; Webmaster
Colette Frantz, Northumberland; Fundraising
Dave Jansky, Sunbury; Outings Chair
Janet Jones, Lewisburg; Environmental Education
Joseph Rebar, Shamokin; Membership/Publicity
Richard Sahn, Cogan Station; Water Quality/Habitats

Please don't us!

It's Spring—a time of renewal.

Please won't you take this opportunity to renew your Sierra Club Membership today? You know we've missed you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Gift Recipient's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

MasterCard Visa AMEX

Exp Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES
INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY \$25

REGULAR \$39 \$47

SUPPORTING \$75 \$100

CONTRIBUTING \$150 \$175

LIFE \$1000 \$1250

SENIOR \$24 \$32

STUDENT \$24 \$32

LIMITED INCOME \$24 \$32

Enclose check and mail to:

Sierra Club,
P.O. Box 52968,
Boulder
CO 80322-2968



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Join a Local CSA!

As the need for a local food network increases exponentially relative to the economic and environmental damage inflicted by corporate globalization, there are some encouraging signs of resistance. The demand for organic, local products is exceeding supply. Farmers markets, CSA's and direct farmer-consumer contacts are all experiencing growth and enhanced interest on the part of the general population.

The benefits of access to local food is moving beyond "first adaptors" and the trend appears to be inevitable as oil prices continue to rise and the taste and nutrient content becomes apparent to the larger population previously limited to photo shoot veggies that tastes bland and contains depleted amounts of vitamins



and minerals. Although we just experienced a serious drought, at our CSA, Dreamcatcher Farm, it was generally perceived by the members as a successful one.

Distribution shares varied in volume reflecting the seasonality of the fruits and vegetables but were consistently bountiful and varied. Pick up day at the farm grew into a social event for many, and several pot luck gatherings were enjoyed by all.

For those who may be interested in reserving a share for the '08 season, please contact us at dreamcatcherfarm@dejazzd.com. A deposit will be required in January but a fairly accurate head count needs to be developed before then as planning and seed and supply ordering starts shortly. ☐

It's Not Too Late to Order Your 2008 Sierra Club Calendars

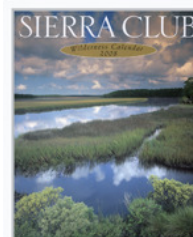
Remember calendar sales are our chief fundraiser, accounting for most of the Otzinachson Group's annual income.

Two styles are available—prices below indicate member's discounted price (including sales tax):

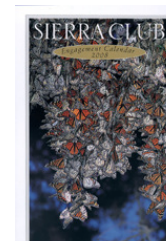
- Engagement (Large Date Book) \$ 12.50**
- Wilderness Wall (Scenic Views) \$ 11.50**

Shipping & Handling: For calendars to the same address, please add \$3.50 for the first calendar and \$0.50 for each additional calendar.

Fill out the form below. **Make checks payable to Otzinachson Group/Sierra Club.**
Mail the order form below and your check to: Roy Fontaine, 2007 Calendars, 1103 Washington Ave, Lewisburg, PA 17837.



Wilderness Wall (Scenic Views) Price: \$11.50



Large Date Book Price: \$12.50

Ship to: Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City, State: _____ Zip code _____
 Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Calendar Style	# of Calendars	Price
Engagement (\$12.50)		\$
Wilderness Wall (\$11.50)		\$
Total for Calendars		\$
Shipping & Handling		\$
Total Enclosed		\$

Trout Run: Under Attack Again

by John R. Faraguna

Trout Run is an 1,800-acre watershed, located just outside of Coal Township (Northumberland County), and consists of lush landscapes, including wetlands (covering approximately 5% of the entire area), sand springs and a 35 million gallon reservoir.

The significance of Trout Run situated in the heart of the anthracite region is immense as it offers a stark contrast to the scarred lands that make up such a large part of our county. With its pure waters, abundant wildlife, and forested hillsides, Trout Run truly is a diamond in the rough and a very unique and important component to our area's heritage and future.

Several years ago this property was at the center of a heated battle when the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) sought to build a federal prison facility on the site. The Brush Valley Preservation Association (BVPA) formed in 2000 and worked hard to build a strong coalition of citizens, organizations and state and federal agencies to protect this precious land. As we neared the decision-making process, BVPA had 3,000 supporters who believed in the mission to preserve Trout Run. BVPA was never against the prison but against the development of Trout Run; in fact much of BVPA's efforts were used to identify a nearby alternate site, Natalie East, where the community could still benefit from the prison AND keep Trout Run intact.

When the FBOP solicited comments, they were overwhelmed with submissions and input from individuals, organizations and agencies, both state and federal; it was because of this tremendous support, that the proposed federal prison was defeated and Trout Run was protected for at least the time being.

Recently, Aqua America, the property owner, has

begun to actively market the property in hopes of bringing economic development to the area. The re-

ality is that Northumberland County has numerous industrial sites, including many sites in the eastern part of the county that are developed and ready on which to build. In fact, over the last decade, tens of millions of dollars has been invested in our region for economic development, often lacking any local strategic visioning or accountability on the

part of the business or local leaders. Unfortunately, this lack of vision and accountability has resulted in

(Continued on page 7)



Editor's Bookmark Picks

Catalog Choice

Just in time for the holidays...eliminate unwanted catalogs in your mailbox; it's very simple — I did it in just a few minutes.

www.catalogchoice.org

Earth-Friendly Gift-Wrapping Options

Give your loved ones beautifully, "green" wrapped gifts this holiday season — some creative ways to use everyday items.

**[www.eartheasy.com/
gift_wrapping.htm](http://www.eartheasy.com/gift_wrapping.htm)**

Eco-artware.com

*Gifts from recycled, used
and natural materials*

www.eco-artware.com

Otzinachson Official Ballot Form

Vote for four of the following candidates or use the write-in option. Remember 3 of the current members are in the middle of two-year terms and are not up for re-election at this time. Please return ballots by February 1, 2008.

	Use this column for the first party of a joint membership or for single membership	Only use this column for the second party of a joint membership
Nicole Faraguna	_____	_____
Ed Lawrence	_____	_____
Jack Miller	_____	_____
Debby Meade	_____	_____
Richard Sahn	_____	_____
Write-In Votes	_____	_____

About the Candidates

Nicole Faraguna is currently a member of the Executive Committee and serves as Conservation Chair and newsletter editor; she continues to be involved with the Brush Valley Preservation Association, an organization she co-founded in 2000 to protect a 2,000 acre tract of land in Northumberland County. She works for a statewide conservation organization and in her free time enjoys gardening, cooking and staying up on local, state & national politics.

Ed Lawrence continues to focus his attention on the protection of public lands in Pa. and nationally. He continues to be an active leader in the Sierra Club Outings programs both for Otzinachson and for the national NE Outings Sub-committee. He continues to represent the Chapter on the DCNR Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee (SAAC).

Debby Meade continues to keep communication lines open to help actively engage members, expand membership throughout Central PA, and live in a sustainable manner. She is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club and member and editor of the Seven Mountains Audubon newsletter. Practices and promotes native plant landscaping through the Penn State Master Gardener program and home gardening. Live life to the fullest. Explore our beautiful outdoors.

Jack Miller is currently the Group's Chair and State Chapter Delegate. If elected, he will continue to serve the group to the best of his ability.

Richard Sahn is a professor of Sociology at the Pennsylvania College of Technology. His interests include deep concern for the natural as well as the socio-cultural environment, which is definitely reflected in what he teaches his students. He is also active in peace/anti-war demonstrations and events and believes that recent wars and corporation induced global warming are the result of greed, ignorance, and indifference. Thus, he fully supports the philosophy and goals of the Sierra Club.

Otzinachson Executive Board Elections

A self-addressed mail-in ballot for the current executive board elections is on the opposite side of this page. Two out of seven two-year positions must be filled. Please vote early so that your ballot reaches us by our deadline of February 1, 2007. The nominees and a brief bio of each are on the back of this sheet. If you believe that this list is incomplete, please us the write-in option.

1. Please vote for four individuals
2. Each group member gets four votes. Joint memberships get four votes per person, and so, they can split their votes.
3. Fold over and securely—tape all sides before mailing. Be sure to include postage.

Place Stamp Here

**Election Committee
Otzinachson Group/Sierra Club
P.O. Box 65
Lewisburg, PA 17837**



Trout Run (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

businesses leaving despite the large investment paid to lure them here in the first place – this has meant the loss of numerous jobs and a daunting collection of vacant commercial buildings.

Taxpayers recently invested over \$6 million in state and federal grants and millions of dollars in state issued low-interest loans to develop the SEEDCO industrial park in Coal Township where Reinhart Foods is now located. To date, Reinhart Foods is the



Trout Run's luscious sand springs.

only company housed in the 1350-acre industrial park. If Aqua America is interested in luring industry to the area, this is the site on which to build, not Trout Run. It would actually be less expensive for incoming industry to relocate to this site since the infrastructure is already in place.

BVPA will continue to work to protect Trout Run to keep it in its natural state; continue to work to open it up for public use with hiking trails, hunting, swimming, boating, so that it may provide surrounding communities a reason to attract visitors and even business and industry.

The economic, ecological, and social benefits of preserving Brush Valley can not be overstated and reckless development can not be an option. The BVPA will educate local officials so that they recognize the value of this property and its critical role in our community's future.

If you are interested in writing a letter to the editor in support of protecting Trout Run, please contact Nicole at ndfhome@tds.net. ☐

Simplify Your Holidays

"And he puzzled three hours, till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!"

- from How The Grinch Stole Christmas by Dr. Suess



The Center for a New American Dream is pleased to provide the brochure *Simplify the Holidays*, offering practical tips for having a holiday with more joy and less stuff. We hope this guide will help you reduce stress and increase your personal fulfillment during this holiday season. We invite you to get a copy of the brochure, and explore the rest of our website.

**Download a copy of the Simplify
the Holiday Booklet by the
Center for the New American Dream
at [http://www.newdream.org/
holiday/brochure.php](http://www.newdream.org/holiday/brochure.php)**

Also, be sure to check out the Center's Holiday Tips which includes gift ideas and how to reduce waste. Visit <http://www.newdream.org/holiday/tips.php>.



Nicole Faraguna, Editor
Otzinachson Regional
Group of the Sierra Club
P.O. Box 65
Lewisburg, PA 17837
[www.sierraclub.org/
chapters/pa/Otzinachson/](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/pa/Otzinachson/)

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Lewisburg, PA 17837

Mountaintop Removal Mining

presented by

Barbara Strangfeld, Appalachian Voices

Sunday, February 24, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Union-Snyder Senior Center ~ 116 N. 2nd Street, Lewisburg

(see details on p. 1)