



# Otzinachson

REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Chair Message ... p. 2

Dying, Rising Oceans  
Require Our Attention ...  
p. 2

Take Action: HB1576 ...  
p. 3

HB1576 Talking points  
... p. 6

Upcoming Otzinachson  
Programs ... p. 7

Got Condoms ... p. 7

Taking Action on Climate  
Change ... p. 7

Spring Hiking Schedule  
... p. 7

.....

## QUOTE

**"We live in a society  
exquisitely dependent on  
science and technology,  
in which hardly anyone  
knows anything about  
science and technology."**

- Carl Sagan

## Huge Local Victory: A Heartfelt Thanks

*by Tire Burner Team Steering Committee*

The tire burner is no more, and it is time to give thanks. On Thursday, January 9, DEP announced that because National Gypsum has ended its support for the project, Emanuel Tire/En-Tire Logistics' plans to build a tire-burning plant near Milton have come to an end. That plant would have burned 100 million pounds of tires a year as fuel for National Gypsum's White Deer wallboard paper factory. That burner would have been one mile from White Deer Elementary School, next to the Susquehanna River and in the middle of our farms and neighborhoods.

*Continued on page 4*

## Songs from the Sacrifice Zone Concert

*by Jack Miller*

A look back at the history of the labor movement and the civil rights movement reveals that music played a very important part in informing the public and buoying the spirits of those who were part of these movements. Singers like Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie are two of the better known singers that were part of the labor movement. There were even groups like the Almanac Singers. In the civil rights movement there was Bob Dylan, Judy Collins, and Joan Baez. There were many groups like Peter, Paul and Mary

Come join us in following this tradition as the Otzinachson Group of the Sierra Club presents the second *Songs from the Sacrifice Zone*. Too many in our area have been forced to sacrifice the quality of their lives to the profit drive

*Continued on page 3*

**May 18th | 4:00 - 6:30**

Tabernacle at the  
Central Oak Heights (Milton)

**Master of Ceremonies**

Than Mitchell

**Performers**

Hannah Bingman

Depotorland

Doug McMinn

Earl Pickens

Leah Schade

Learn more at  
[frackconcert.wordpress.com](http://frackconcert.wordpress.com)

## Message from Chair

As your new chair I would like our meetings, held every two months, never to lose touch with the experiential component of environmental pollution and contamination. Particularly, we need to emphasize the plight of individuals and families who have been affected by the fracking in the upper tier counties as well as the continuing degradation of the forests and, ultimately, the hiking trails. We need to be in crisis mode for some time to come. It's practically a life or death situation. As a professor of sociology I utilize the ideas and information from our meetings to teach my students to be concerned. I'm in a position to have a critical influence on these students who, in turn, will make others aware of the problems we face as citizens of PA as well as the USA. Finally, I believe that those of us who *know what's going on* can't afford to be merely academic; we must be, or keep being, activists in one way or another. And there are many different ways other than teaching or taking to the streets.

**Richard Sahn, Chair**

## Dying, Rising Oceans Deserve Our Attention

*by Jack Miller*

Last October world experts on the oceans met at Oxford University to reflect on the state of our oceans and to discuss possible solutions. Some of the most informed experts on the oceans were brought together by the International Programme on the state of the Oceans (IPSO) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (UCN). The conclusion of the participants should have caused great concern for all of us and should have caused immediate response from the people, corporations and governments of the world. They concluded that "unless action is taken now, the consequences of our activities are at high risk of causing through the combined effects of climate change, over exploitation, pollution and habitat loss, the next globally significant extinction event in the ocean."

Simply put, we are destroying much of the life in our oceans.

Through a combination of ignorance, corporate greed, and rigid political beliefs, we continue as a nation to not seriously take on the challenge of climate change. We continue to fiddle while ocean temperature and acidity increase due to our burning of fossil fuels. Much of the warming that has occurred on earth has taken place in the oceans. Something like two thirds

*Continued on page 6*

## Group Leadership

**Richard Sahn\***, Chair  
Issues: Sprawl, Transportation

**Nicole Faraguna\***, Vice-Chair, Political Chair, Conservation Co-Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster  
Issues: State Forests/Wilderness, Coal Power Plants

**Roy Fontaine\***, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair, Chapter Delegate (Alt)  
Issues: Waste, Water quality/Habitats

**Jack Miller\***, Secretary, Chapter Delegate, Conservation Co-Chair  
Issues: Global Warming

**Lana Gulden\***, Conservation Co-Chair  
Issues: Air Quality, Coal Power Plants, Endangered Species, Marine, Parks/Refuges

**Dave Hafer\***, Conservation Co-Chair  
Issues: State Forests, Parks/Refuges, Transportation

**Brian Brown**, Chapter Delegate (Alt)  
Issues: Agriculture

**Susan Loftus**, Membership Chair

**Paul Shaw**, Outings Chair

## Stay Informed

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## Attend a Meeting

**May 7th**

**July 9th**

**September 3rd**

**November 5th**

**Meetings begin at  
7:00 pm and are held at:**

**Mondragon Book Store  
111 Market Street  
Lewisburg, PA 17837**

Please note that this location is not handicap accessible. If you can suggest a accessible location, please email Richard at richardsahn5@aol.com.

If you have something for the group to discuss, please contact Richard Sahn ahead of time at richardsahn5@aol.com.com.

## Concert (cont'd from page 1)

of multi-national corporations. They are turning Penn's Woods into an industrial zone. Come and be part of the environmental movement's efforts to tame this industries goal of turning our area into a high profit no accountability zone.

The concert will be a presentation of many local singers and singing groups. Many are your favorite local performers. Look below for

a complete listing. The concert will again take place at Oak Heights church campgrounds located between Williamsport and Lewisburg on US 15. (Directions below) The concert will be presented from 4PM until 6:30 PM. We will be singing rain or shine. A donation of \$5 per individual and \$10 for a family will be collected at the entrance. If you can't afford this, give what you can. ☒



## songs from the sacrifice zone 5.18.2014 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm **Concert**

at the **Tabernacle at Central Oak Heights**

### Take Action on HB 1576 *Protect PA's Wildlife*

Just when you thought the special interests couldn't find another way to eliminate environmental protection in Pennsylvania, "there they go again....." This time they are going after the protectors of Pennsylvania's threatened and endangered species, such as the osprey, the great egret, the bog turtle and the banded sunfish.

The mining, gas drilling, and timber industries want to undermine the independence of the PA Fish and Boat Commission and the PA Game Commission to administer Pennsylvania's endangered species laws.

House Bill 1576 would send the Commissions' endangered species lists to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission -- an agency dominated by the legislature -- for additional scrutiny.

These changes proposed in the bill blunt the effect of the Commissions' list of threatened and endangered species of fish and wildlife, allowing more mining, drilling and clear-cutting

in Pennsylvania's lands. The Commissions would have to go through a very cumbersome regulatory review process. To make matters even

worse, under the current versions of the bills the agencies would only be allowed to protect fish and wildlife already listed by the federal government.

At the same time, permit applications for mining, oil and gas drilling, and timbering would be approved, without any on-the-ground check for their impacts on the PA endangered species.

This week, Sierra Club's Conservation Chair Tom Au testified before a Joint House Committees hearing urging opposition to HB 1576. He pointed out that the agencies' scientists

*Continued on page 6*







*Members of the Tire Burner Team sign petitions in opposition of National Gypsum's proposed tire burner in White Deer Township.*

With this news, we first want to express our gratitude to the volunteers who fought with such passion against this tire burner. This includes nearly 2,500 people who signed petitions opposing it, including children across our community. It includes Bucknell students who made documentaries about the tire burner, and 160 Bucknell faculty who signed a petition against it. And it includes some 50 dedicated volunteers who worked hard gathering petition signatures, raising awareness, distributing signs and more. Brice Brown, Don Joint and David Beideman of Milton infused our team with generous support on many levels in terms of publicity materials and fundraising. We are grateful for their dedication.

These volunteers showed what community spirit means.

Two years before any of us heard about the tire burner proposed for White Deer Township, members of Organizations United for the Environment (now Shale Justice) were dedicating their efforts to staving off this project before it even came to public consciousness. Dave and Sue Laidacker and Charles Sackrey repeatedly met with local elected officials to make them aware of the dangers of this proposed project. Charles spent countless hours researching and gathering the information that would help get our fight started. The support given by OUE/ Shale Justice to our grassroots community-based effort enabled us to organize, educate,

and build the momentum that ultimately led to success.

We are also grateful to the scientists, environmentalists, and public health experts who helped us build our case against tire incineration. Dr. Sherri Mason of SUNY/Fredonia, Dr. Derek Straub of Susquehanna University, Mike Ewall of Energy Justice, and Kevin Stewart of the American Lung Association graciously shared their expertise and time with us as we protested En-Tire Logistic's air quality permit with DEP. We also benefitted greatly from the counsel of environmental lawyers across the region and state who donated their expertise or provided it at a low cost so we could stay ahead of evolving legal issues associated with this situation.

We also thank the supervisors of White Deer Township. After the DEP public hearing in May of 2103 they spent countless hours investigating the tire burner's plans, listening to community members and evaluating their options. By challenging the tire burner's plans in court, they showed courage in doing all they could to protect their neighbors and community.

We also want to thank Rep. Fred Keller, who showed great leadership in opposing the tire burner publicly. We are grateful for the significant time and energy that he and his staff gave to our cause. Our thanks as well to the Union County Commissioners for taking a stand against the tire burner.

We thank the local news media, particularly the Daily Item, the Milton Standard Journal, WKOK radio and WNEP TV News. Their journalists covered this story time and again to keep the public informed about this evolving situation.

Finally, we thank National Gypsum's leadership for making the right decision. NG has long been a valuable member of the local busi-



ness community, and we appreciate their recognizing that burning tires to fuel their plant was a bad idea. We look forward to their continued good citizenship in our area.

We also believe this is an opportune time for our elected leaders to act to prevent this type of business from threatening our community again. We urge other communities to take action now to prevent the same threat we had to battle. Hazardous-waste and tire incinerators should not be possible anywhere.

Without changes to local ordinances, another company will again decide that our rural area is just the place for the type of operation that will threaten rather than build up our communities. Indeed, Emanuel Tire/En-Tire Logistics has already said it will try again to get a new permit to build a tire burner at another site in our area. Every township can promote good jobs while protecting the public. We have learned a lot during this fight, including how ordinances that can do just that. We intend to communicate those ideas to our local elected leaders, and we are counting on them to take the steps necessary to win the next fight before it starts. That would be the best possible news for our community, our children, our river and farms, and the people of our region.

There are so many other individuals on our team and behind-the-scenes who deserve thanks that, unfortunately, space simply will not permit. We are grateful to all of them. They showed the power of a community united. ☑

*The Tire Burner Team Steering Committee:  
Dave Jacobson, Pete Mackey, Ben Marsh, Larry Maynard, Leah Schade, Chair, Jennifer Thomson, Amanda Wooden, David Young*



## HB 1576 (cont'd from page 3)

are better judges of the threats to wildlife and aquatic life. He explained that the agencies make decisions proposals for protecting rare, threatened, or endangered species in an open, transparent manner. The agencies publish the scientific data collected, have it reviewed by other scientists, publish proposed lists and protection plans, accept public comment, and hold public hearings. It is hard to find fault with this deliberative process. ☐

## Oceans (cont'd from page 2)

of the CO<sub>2</sub> released has been absorbed by the oceans increasing the acidity of the oceans by 30%. Carbon when absorbed becomes carbonic acid. Whole ecosystems in the oceans are threatened. Coral reefs which are essential for many species are dying. We haven't even taken the time to consider what a loss of the oceans and their resources means to civilization.

This conference which took place last fall was not widely reported because the news we get is as NBC Anchorman Brian Williams said is what the people want. We don't want to be troubled by the news we hear.

Brian Williams was absolutely truthful about his reporting. He needs viewers to satisfy the corporate need for profits and there are never enough profits. The news we get is not what we need to know, but what a tabloid mentality of reporting gives us. What is even scarier is that many people's only source of news is talk radio or the talking heads on Fox news which not only distorts events, but often fabricates things. Corporate consolidation has greatly reduced the reporting of news and news sources.

The measurement of the changing temperature and acidity of the oceans is an observed fact. It is late in the game if we are going to save the oceans for those who follow us. We must act now. ☐

## HB 1576 Talking Points

### What it does

- Requires the State Independent Regulatory Review Commission to review decisions and data presented by PA State Agencies
- Creates a new centralized database to which all Agencies must contribute
- Information "including records identifying the location of endangered or threatened plant or animal species not already known to the general public, to persons who request it."
- All species listed as T&E (Threatened and Endangered) in the database will be automatically removed unless re-designated by the agencies every two years
- Wild Trout Streams can no longer be designated and protected provisionally

### Why it isn't a good idea

- Politicians, not scientists, make the final call
- Two-year review requirement is at best unrealistic and at worse a way to remove currently listed species
- Burden completely on State Agencies (and taxpayers) to provide records of species in certain locations and undetected rare species and their habitats are at risk
- A computerized database (Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Index - PNDI) is already available
- Sharing exact location of T&E species is dangerous
- Greatly weakens PA's Wild Trout stream designation
- Potential loss of up to \$27 million in federal wildlife restoration funds, representing up to a third of the budgets of the Game Commission and Fish and Boat Commission
- Don't let the mining, drilling and timber industries drive our precious wildlife, fish and plants into extinction in Pennsylvania!

## Upcoming Otzinachson Programs *Mark Your Calendars*

### **Climate Change: Dealing with Deniers**

MAY 12 AT 6:45 PM

Public Library for Union County\*  
255 Reitz Blvd., Lewisburg, PA 17837

A great deal has been said and written about climate change. Much of this information has been a distortion of the scientific evidence. The fossil fuel industry has spent millions of dollars in creating doubt about what the best scientist in the world have concluded with respect to climate change. Big Carbon has used their strong influence on the media and politicians to further their profits.

In this program, Richard Whiteford will present the facts and truth about climate change. It will be a program that will enlighten everyone from those who accept the overwhelming consensus of climate scientists to the fiercest climate denier. While Mr. Whiteford will give us the scientific validated information on climate change, he will also show us how climate deniers distort the facts to build their case.

Richard Whiteford has given over 200 climate change presentations. In 1997 he was an honored guest of the United Nations and spoke at the United Nations in 2009 at the 18th International Conference on Health and the Environment about global warming. He has worked with the Sierra Club, Highlands Coalition, Wilderness Society, and the Defenders of Wildlife.

Please come and join us and learn from this distinguished presenter. The issue of global climate change is too important not to be well informed. Learn why we must begin without further delay the taking of action to minimize climate change. Learn the deceptive and contorted tactics of climate change deniers.

\*Use of the library room is in no way constitutes and endorsement by the library of the group or of its activity.

## Take Action on Climate Change! *Make a Difference*

The National Sierra Club is in the process of asking Chapters and Groups for input as it works to ramp up its efforts in the area of climate change. They are asking for our help in shaping the direction and goals of the Club's climate action plan. The Otzinachson Group is forming a committee to help in this effort and to actively engage in efforts to take on this issue.

If you are interested in becoming active on this critical issue, please contact Jack Miller at [jmiller1018@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiller1018@yahoo.com). ☞

### **Get Outdoors!**

#### *Edward Abbey Hiking Society Spring/Summer 2014 Outings Schedule*

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, has out done himself once again this year with spring and summer hikes that extend across northcentral and northeastern Pennsylvania and into New York. Thanks to all of the Volunteer Outings Leaders for their contributions!

Hikes begin Sunday March 23rd!

You can download the Outings Schedule at [Otzinachson.Wordpress.com/get-outdoors](http://Otzinachson.Wordpress.com/get-outdoors)

### **Happy Earth Day! *Got Condoms?***

In honor of Earth Day this year, groups are giving out 44,000 "Endangered Species Condoms."

The environmentally friendly condoms will be distributed in an effort to refocus the green holiday back to why it was started: to campaign against "runaway human population growth and overconsumption."

Learn more at <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org>.