

# [ the sylvanian ]

spring 2014

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org)

## [ advocacy ] getting off the couch



explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

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# [ from the editors ]

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## are we clods?

John Donne said, "If a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory were." None of us are islands. What each of us does – or does not do – affects us all. It enhances or diminishes our town, our state, our continent, our earth.

In this issue of *Sylvanian* we invite some activists to report on what they do and on the problems they face. We appreciate their efforts.

But we also want to make a point: most of us most of the time don't do enough, don't do what needs to be done. We are balked by rich people who, if they ruin our continent, feel they can buy an island and live in fortified serenity. But we must balk back. We must tell the world that rich despoilers need to be contained. Consider Duke Energy poisoning a river, coal processors in West Virginia fouling drinking water, the Koch brothers ripping a hole in Canada.

We must be active and outspoken. But too often we are clods.

We must remember that "No man is an island."



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

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

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### chapter directory

Due to space restrictions, the Chapter Directory was not included in this issue. To view the directory, go to [http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA\\_Chapter\\_2008/chapter-directory.html](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/PA_Chapter_2008/chapter-directory.html)



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This publication is dedicated to serving the Sierra Club Pennsylvania membership, and is a forum for internal policy discussion and debate among those truly concerned with protecting the environment. Opinions expressed herein are the personal opinions of their authors and may or may not reflect Sierra Club policy.

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.

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## [ advocacy ]

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## [ on the cover ]

Strategy Design's Sydney Willis puts us on the cover. Here we are demonstrating, advocating for our favorite environmental issues. We all oppose irresponsible fracking. We all want cleaner air, cleaner water. We believe in recycling. After all, we wouldn't be Sierra Club members if we weren't concerned about the environment.

How can we turn our beliefs into action? In this issue, we invite some of our leaders to tell us what we need to do.

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# [ the view from harrisburg ]

by Joanne Kilgour



JOAN WILSON

## GOV. CORBETT'S 2014-2015 BUDGET REVEALS PLAN TO EXPAND LEASING OF GAS RIGHTS WITHIN STATE FOREST AND STATE PARK LAND

In early February, Governor Corbett announced his proposed budget for fiscal year 2014-2015. Our analysis of this budget proposal revealed that the Corbett Administration plans to add \$75 million in new revenue through royalties generated from oil and gas leases on state forest and park land. According to the Governor, these funds will be used for education, healthcare, and infrastructure-related expenditures.

By including state parks, Corbett will be breaking what has been a permanent policy against leasing state park lands for gas drilling. This is a bad precedent for state parks that, up until now, were considered sacred. However, in a radio interview with Governor Corbett on WITF's SmartTalk, Corbett made clear that these lands are

not sacred to his administration. In fact, when reporter Matt Paul asked for a response to the Sierra Club's statement that we should be protecting public lands and not exploiting them, Corbett responded: "[b]ut there is a huge source of natural gas underneath the state parks, that is the state's. I don't believe in just leaving it there."

This new leasing plan will require an executive order from Corbett to lift the 2010 moratorium on additional leasing of state forest lands. Corbett claims that he will simply replace this moratorium with a new moratorium. The "new moratorium" would allow new oil and gas leases in state forest and park land, but would prohibit leasing of state forest land involving surface impacts.

While the Governor's proposal would only permit what he refers to as "non-surface impact leasing," we know that such a claim is misleading and myopic. In fact, Ellen Ferretti, Secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), admitted that additional wells may be constructed on well pads within the boundaries of state forests, during her testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Not only will this kind of direct, incremental surface activity occur, but the very idea that there can be non-surface impact leasing is misleading.

As those living in the gasfields know all too well, surface impacts are not limited to new wells, well pads, pipelines, compressor stations,

access roads, or open pits, but rather they include loss of critical habitat, changes to the local hydrology and geology, loss of valuable ecosystem services such as flood control, noise and light disturbances, and increased air pollution.

Further, there will be impacts to recreation and the economic benefit to the state from tourism driven by the natural beauty of the state forest and park system. Increased light and noise disturbances paired with forest fragmentation and habitat loss are also likely to result in fewer game animals and a reduction in hunting.

And these are only the certain impacts – in addition, as we have seen recently with the tragic fire at the gas wells in Greene County, there will be risks of leaks, spills, blowouts, and fires – none of which respect the artificial boundary between private land and the lands held in trust by the Commonwealth.

On February 19, the Sierra Club, along with Clean Water Action, the League of Conservation Voters, PennEnvironment, and Representative Greg Vitali, held a press conference to highlight our concerns with the governor's proposal. And, at the March meeting of the Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council, the Sierra Club provided public comment urging the Council to take a more active role in analyzing the proposal and its implementation by DCNR.

A DCNR report on the impacts of existing drilling and natural gas development in state forests has been anticipated for some time now, and is expected to be released in April 2014. This report will require careful scrutiny, but should help us to analyze and interpret expected impacts from increased extraction in and around our precious state lands. As soon as this report is released, we will share it widely.

## ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD ACCEPTS PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS; ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS DELIVER 17,000 SIGNATURES AGAINST CONTINUED USE OF OPEN PITS AND IMPOUNDMENTS

On March 11, the Sierra Club along with other environmental groups gathered outside the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)'s Harrisburg headquarters to urge the agency to ban the use of open pits and large impoundments for the storage of natural gas drilling waste. Following speeches from the Sierra Club, PennEnvironment, and a resident of the gasfields, Clean Water Action canvassers hand delivered the coalition's 17,000 petition signatures to DEP Deputy Secretary of the Office of Oil and Gas Management, Scott Perry.

This action took place in connection with the end of the public comment period on the proposed revisions to the state's oil and gas regulations, 25 Pa. Code Ch. 78 ("Chapter 78"). The Sierra Club joined several other environmental organizations in submitting a detailed technical comment on these regulations, with the expert scientific assistance of Susan Harvey, a petroleum and environmental engineer and principal of Harvey Consulting, LLC; Michele Adams, a registered professional engineer and principal of Meliora Design; Kevin Heatley, an ecologist; and Briana Mordick, a geologist and Oil and Gas Science Fellow with the Natural Resources Defense Council.

This technical comment addresses many deficiencies in the proposed regulations, and in addition urges the Environmental Quality Board to:

- Mandate Safe Drinking Water Act standards or better for replacement drinking water in cases where residents have lost water supplies due to drilling;
- Ban the use of open pits and centralized impoundments for oil and gas waste fluids;
- Require the identification of orphaned and abandoned wells before site construction and well drilling, while also ensuring that wells will be plugged, sealed, or otherwise addressed to prevent pollution; and
- Prohibit the improper disposal and land application of drill cuttings, brine, and residual waste.

In addition to the joint technical comments, Sierra Club staff and volunteers testified at the public hearings on these proposed regulations, which took place throughout the Commonwealth in January. The Environmental Quality Board will consider the public comments given at each public hearing, as well as those submitted in written form, as they finalize these oil and gas regulations.

#### BLUE GREEN ALLIANCE MEETS TO KICK-OFF BLUE GREEN CAUCUS IN STATE LEGISLATURE; CAUCUS TO FOCUS ON ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND WORKER TRANSITION

On Tuesday, March 18th the Sierra Club, along with Pennsylvania Blue Green Alliance leaders and members of the BlueGreen Caucus in the state legislature, re-launched Pennsylvania's BlueGreen Caucus—a bi-partisan coalition that will pursue policies that grow the economy, protect the environment, and create jobs. Co-Chairs Rep. Scott Conklin and Rep. Gene DiGirolamo stood together to prioritize legislation in 2014 and beyond that will support clean energy and local jobs.

This legislation will include the Pennsylvania Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard Act (AEPS), requiring electric distribution companies like PECO and PP&L to obtain 15 percent of their electricity

from renewable sources by 2023. The group also discussed the need to invest in policies that promote proactive worker transition and retraining.

#### GRASSROOTS LOBBYING AND UNIFIED OPPOSITION HELP KEEP EFFORT TO WEAKEN ENDANGERED SPECIES PROTECTIONS AT BAY

Over the past winter, the most active and controversial environmental issue before the state legislature has been HB 1576, the Endangered Species Coordination Act. As Jeff Schmidt outlined in detail in the Fall 2013 issue of the *Sylvanian*, this bill would have a detrimental effect on our ability to list and protect endangered species in Pennsylvania and require proposed new listings to go through the politicized Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC).

Despite significant political and industry pressure, we have thus far been successful in holding off passage of the bill in its current form. Thanks to all of the actions taken by you, our volunteers, in reaching out to your elected officials and keeping the pressure on from the districts in tandem with our Capitol-based lobbying effort, we have secured enough bipartisan opposition to keep the bill from moving at the pace industry interests expected.

This is a great example of the efficacy of coalitions. The groups working to suppress this attack on our endangered species include: PennFuture, Sierra Club, PennEnvironment, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Appalachian Mountain Club, The Nature Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Clean Water Action, Audubon Pennsylvania, Keystone Trails Association, PA Forest Coalition, American Rivers, PA Land Trust Association, Wildlands Conservancy, and Natural Lands Trust.

Though to date we have kept this bill at bay, we do anticipate that a compromise may be in the works, and that elements of this legislation could come back with new language and a different bill number. We will remain vigilant, but we should all feel good about the work we have done on this important issue. This process exemplifies the power we have when we are able to come together as a unified front.

#### ACT 13 UPDATE: GOVERNOR DENIED REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION, REMAINING ISSUES PROCEED IN COMMONWEALTH COURT

Following the December 2013 decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to strike down as unconstitutional several provisions of the law known as Act 13, Governor Corbett petitioned the Court to rehear the case with all of the justices. The Supreme Court denied this request in February, but certain issues within the case were remanded back to Commonwealth Court. In mid-March, Commonwealth Court issued an order outlining the briefing and hearing schedules for the parties, as well as clarifying the specific set of issues to be addressed. Briefing should begin in April.

continued on page 9

## meet robert gardner

by Robert Gardner

When I was asked by the Chapter Director to write an introduction in the Sylvaniaian, I thought it would be a pretty easy task. Two months into this position, little did I know that writing an introduction after meeting so many talented, dedicated and all around great Sierra Club members throughout the state would be such a daunting task. But indeed it is. I'll say a bit about me and what I hope to do here in Harrisburg.

I grew up in Virginia. I was raised in a small town with winding creeks and the rolling water of the Potomac. Before the days of cell phones or all day spent in front of a screen, I spent my days with soggy pant legs climbing trees, looking for crawfish or just wandering around trying to stay away from copperheads. This carefree lifestyle might sound familiar to many of you reading this, because much like Pennsylvania, Virginia harbors many beautiful public lands, forests and great rivers. However, much like Pennsylvania, Virginia also has a long history of fossil fuel extraction and dependence upon coal, gas and nuclear power plants. My community was no exception as we lived next to the Possum Point coal-fired power plant.

My neighborhood slowly became encircled by the seemingly endless roads, houses and services planned for what is now called the DC Corridor. The power they needed came from Possum Point (soon to be converted to 'clean, green natural gas') – which was

slowly poisoning the Neabsco and the wells of households all around. As people got sick and the ash ponds got bigger, my environmental awakening began.

Like my counterparts here at the Club, I've been working in the environmental community for years. I started my quest in high school and college, organizing against



the expansion of urban areas into the few remaining green spaces in Richmond, VA. After time spent abroad and working with organized labor in New York, I decided to go to Vermont to study environmental law. Afterwards, I was able to work with the litigation team at Earthjustice and then on to climate and energy campaigning with Greenpeace USA. Throughout, I've learned

a lot about how best to work together as a community of concerned citizens to challenge polluting industries in their quest to enrich themselves at our expense

Working against the oil and gas industry in Pennsylvania will not be an easy task. Though everyone reading this knows full well the challenges at hand -- protecting over a million acres of our public lands and countless acres of private lands -- from the drill, together, I know we can make a difference. I know that we can make our stand in 2014 and begin the process of rolling back some of the gains the industry has made over the past decade. I could not be more excited to join hands with all of you in the coming months and years as we campaign to take back the Commonwealth from the oil and gas industry.

*Robert Gardner is the Sierra Club Campaign Representative for Keep Dirty Fuels in the Ground Initiative, Our Wild America and Beyond Natural Gas Campaigns. You can find him on Twitter: RobertHGardner and Skype: Robert.Gardner25*

# [ explore enjoy pennsylvania ]

## wilderness in the allegheny national forest

by Gary Thornbloom

In 2014 we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act, which established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS). The NWPS began with 9.1 million acres and has grown to 109.5 million acres managed by four federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service.

The Wilderness Act passed in the House with only one dissenting vote, passed in the Senate 78-8 and was signed by President Johnson. The first sentence of the wilderness Act recognized the need for wilderness:

*In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.*

Despite the overwhelming vote and the need, the process was not easy.

A key person in the process was Howard Zahniser. He was born in 1906 in Franklin Pennsylvania, and spent much of his teen years in Tionesta near what is now the Allegheny National Forest (ANF). Zahniser's thinking was influenced by many of the founders of the Wilderness Society, and he eventually led that organization. In 1956 he began the first of sixty-six drafts for what became the Wilderness Act in 1964.

Zahniser's skill and craft as a writer shows in what many consider the jewel in the Act, its definition of wilderness:

A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

***"Wilderness is a necessity...***

***There must be places for human***

***beings to satisfy their souls."***

- John Muir

Wilderness designation is the strongest protection our laws provide for the land. Wilderness is the place we go to restore our selves and to experience self-willed land. The ANF includes two wilderness areas: Allegheny Islands Wilderness and Hickory Creek Wilderness. Together they protect less than ten thousand acres of the 555,000 acres that comprise the ANF.

The Allegheny River Islands Wilderness is comprised of 368 acres on 7 islands and lies between Buckaloons and Tionesta. A short paddle can take you to these islands. This is far from the concept many people have of wilderness being inaccessible. Hickory, ash, maple and especially sycamore trees cover many of the islands. The alluvial, or water formed, islands are composed of cobble stones mixed with sand, mud and clay. The island interiors are often lush. Campsites are located in the obvious clearings. Falling asleep next to the gentle murmur of the river is getting back to life lived at a gentle pace.

Hickory Creek Wilderness includes 8,630 acres and is mostly northern hardwoods and hemlock. The area is relatively isolated, and provides opportunities for encountering wildlife. A 12-mile trail loop has options for day hiking, as well as for backpacking. While most of the trail is on a plateau, it drops in and out of tributaries of area streams. Hickory Creek Wilderness is untrammelled, but accessible in multiple ways.

Explore and Enjoy both of these Wilderness Areas on Sierra Club outings - at the Chapter's Annual Outing in July, and on Allegheny, Lake Erie, and Moshannon Group outings throughout this year that celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act.

# [ coleman's lantern ]

## a creek runs through It: a story twelve years old

by Phil Coleman

When our children were small, we made a joke out of Elliottsville. We would spot a house four miles from the cross roads and call it suburban Elliottsville; the next house would be greater metropolitan Elliottsville. Then we would go through “neighborhoods” and finally arrive at beautiful downtown Elliottsville, a general store where Rt. 381 intersects with the Bruceton Mills road.

Those were the old days. Today there is no general store, just a home with a large vegetable garden.

I met my son David and his son David in Elliottsville so we could make a car switch and paddle the stretch of upper Big Sandy Creek that flows through the southwest corner of Quebec Run Wild Area. I had never before paddled with grandson David, who just turned six. I have paddled with Ryan, 11, on the middle Yough. I have paddled with granddaughter Alex on Boca Ciega Bay. So this was a chance, on Father's Day, for me to make it three for three with my grandchildren.

We made the car switch, leaving a car at the one-lane bridge just south of the Pennsylvania border and went back to Elliottsville to start our paddle. The water level was high for June, a nice minimum for canoe paddling. Son David paddled his new whitewater slalom open canoe and wanted to avoid scratches. Grandson David and I paddled my touring canoe and weren't as fastidious about occasional scrapes with rocks.

As a family, we have built our own boats. I have built more than a dozen kayaks and C-1 whitewater canoes. Son Phil has built over 100 kayaks. David has helped with lots of projects and built his canoe this past year. My touring canoe is one of a kind, an adaptation of a hundred year-

old Old Town design. It is a comfortable, stable craft, and it glides over the water. David's canoe is the opposite extreme. Maneuverable, tippy: it responds to and requires constant attention.

As soon as we start down stream, we are closed in by woods. The rhododendron are in bloom, white and light pink blossoms along both banks. Little David spots a tire in the water. In the next half mile he spots two more tires and a couple of cans. His



previous canoe trip three weeks before was a Moshannon Group stream cleanup trip on Spring Creek, so he's attuned to spotting trash. Even a stream through a wild area is littered. The Big Sandy above our put-in runs beside a road for six miles, so bald tires, fast food wrappers and beer cans are inevitable.

After we have gone about a mile, we come to a fresh fallen tree which almost blocks the entire stream. We skirt it and see another tree, and then two together. For a distance of a quarter of a mile, all the trees on the right bank have been blown over. The creek is impossibly blocked.

Southwestern Pennsylvania has had more tornadoes than usual this spring, including one that destroyed summer cottages on Mt.

Davis and a big part of Salisbury, PA. A tornado was reported in Gibbons Glade, just five miles from here on June 2nd. We can't tell whether a tornado touched down out here where perhaps no one noticed; or, possibly, a straight-line wind did the damage. We are at the only spot where an open field, an unused pasture, exists along the creek, one of the few private in holdings in the area. The openness of the field may have been a factor in the wind damage to the trees along the bank. We climb over broken limbs to the field and survey our situation, and we notice a trace through the pasture grass. We aren't the first to have come along since the blow down.

We haul our canoes up the bank and pull them like sleds along the trace a quarter mile downstream where the creek reenters the woods and the blow down stops. My canoe weighs only 51 pounds; David's even less. But we packed today for floating, not portaging, without packs and with no consideration for economy of weight. If we carried our canoes, we would have to make a second trip each.

As we paddle on down stream, little David notices the gurgles and whispers of water flowing into the creek. Every wet weather spring is producing a bit of flow and these flows trickle through or down the banks creating background music for this near breezeless day. A kingfisher lifts and flies downstream, then flies again and again each time we near it. At one point an owl lifts and lumbers away. David hears a noise in the woods, something the size of deer or bear. Little David spots a trout and thinks it is a snake. Sunfish scurry out of view. Gnats gather over the water in each sunny opening. The creek flows slowly through pools and then makes its own music as it flows through narrow chutes or over gravel shoals. In places the creek is 30 feet wide, in others 15, with the trees enclosing it above.

Finally, we come to the spot I've been looking for. Mill Run empties into Big Sandy. A hemlock stands on the point where the two join. It is one of my favorite camping spots. We stop for lunch.

A fire ring has last winter's oak leaves in it. No one has camped here recently. The hemlock creates a deep shade, not necessary today but reminding me of summer days. I remember sitting under this hemlock wearing a red shirt one day several years back, when a hummingbird flew by and did a double take. For a moment I was a large red blossom.

Mill Run water is noticeably cooler than Big Sandy water. We wade a few feet upstream to a downed tree that crosses from bank to bank and sit briefly in the bright sun. Hikers rarely come to this part of Quebec Run Wild Area. It is at least a half mile off the nearest marked trail. I walked by here 25 years ago before there were any marked trails. Then Quebec Run was just a part of Forbes State Forest that District Forester Bob Ache wanted to protect.

Now that the trails are marked, it gets a bit more traffic but not enough to disturb it. White oaks predominate. Hemlocks border the streams. Like much of Penn's Woods, it shows signs of deer over browsing. Parts have been timbered, and I feel they should not have been. Native and stocked trout flourish in the streams.

Beaver live here even though their dams can't survive annual floods. It is a pleasant place to spend a quiet Sunday.

Our trip on down the creek takes us by Tiebolt Run which flows into the Big Sandy behind an island. If you don't know it's there you might miss it. Then we scrape through the shallowest shoals on the creek and paddle a beautiful deep pool around a bend where we can see the iron bridge a half mile ahead.

Our trip is complete except for packing, changing clothes, redistributing canoes. We drive to the Stone House Restaurant and meet Wyona for dinner.

## a view from harrisburg (continued from page 5)

As Mark Helbing, an attorney with PennFuture, states in his article Act 13 case: Court sets aggressive schedule, impact fee likely to remain intact, the issues before the Court include:

- Whether the portion of Act 13 regarding which parties are entitled to receive notice of a spill constitutes a "special law" or a violation of equal protection;
- Whether portions of Act 13 related to the jurisdiction of the Public Utility Commission must be struck down because they are incapable of standing on their own in the absence of other provisions that have been deemed unconstitutional by the Supreme Court;

- Whether Act 13 effects a 'taking' by allowing well operators to take private property for use in its operations; and
- Whether the 'gag rule' covering the ability of health care practitioners to communicate about the chemical composition of fluids used in fracking is constitutional.

*Joanne Kilgour is the Director of the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, headquartered in Harrisburg*



## With your help we can clean up our water

**Sierra Club Water Sentinels are the first line of defense of America's waters. We live on the water planet. However, water is a finite resource with only about 1 % of the world's water actually being available for human consumption. Water pollution & over-use are threatening both the quality & quantity of our water resources at an alarming rate.**

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# [ advocacy ] getting off the sofa

The fossil fuels industry is spending over \$150 million in advertising, promoting oil and gas drilling. This well-funded effort makes it more important than ever that we get our message out, and, without the deep pockets of the industry rich guys, we have to depend on our membership. Let's see how that works.

Sylvanian Sam sits on his overstuffed couch and sees on TV that poison has been spilled in a West Virginia river. "They oughta arrest those guys!" he declares.



Then he dreams of his next sandwich.

Yelling at the TV is the lowest form of activism.

How can we get Sam off his couch?

We know that Sam votes and votes the right way. But we still need more from Sam.



Let's begin by setting his laptop in front of him. Through multiple emails and requests on Facebook, Sam can be urged to send letters and petitions to elected officials. In many cases, he can sign a petition with a couple of clicks. This helps. But of course, the official receiving it knows that the petition is only a petition and that not a whole lot of commitment went into signing.



Some of these email requests also urge Sam to place a call. They supply the number and a generic message. It's easy. So Sam makes these calls some of the time. Calls show a little more initiative.

Can we get him to join us in a peaceful demonstration?



The constitutional guarantee of free speech gives us the right to peacefully gather and to voice our opinions. We can assemble in public places, and, with some limits, march (usually with prior approval) to advocate for our causes. As a part of this effort, we can carry signs and banners. Perhaps a leader can call Sam and get him to join a march or a stand-in in front of a representative's office.

Perhaps he'll even carry a sign or hold one end of a banner.

Now our decision makers know Sam has made an effort to express his view. They know he cares!



But there is more to be done. The rich guys hire lobbyists to carry their message to legislators and executives. We can do the same, but we aren't nearly as rich. The Sierra Club established the first environmental lobbying office in Harrisburg more than thirty years ago. We are now joined by a few other organizations in sending lobbyists to argue our environmental cause. But only when these lobbyists are joined by Club members to help carry the message do we have the oomph that the rich guys have. We need to put Sam on a bus and drive him to Harrisburg with fellow environmentalists to call on representatives or executive branch leaders (DEP for instance) and to carry the argument to them.



What else might Sam do? Civil disobedience? Traditionally, the Sierra Club has abstained from participating in civil disobedience, a non-destructive protest that typically involves trespass or actions that put the protestor in harm's way but does no harm. However, when executive director Michael Brune joined Greenpeace and others in tying himself to a White House gate, protesting the Keystone pipeline, he stepped across this line. This was a one-time exception to the Club's rule to "use what-

ever legal means necessary" to protect the environment. At this point in our history, Sam shouldn't participate in civil disobedience in the name of the Sierra Club. Being a member of the Sierra Club does not preclude Sam's participation in these types of actions, he just has to do it as individual. Sam should understand that even though no harm is done, civil disobedience means breaking the law.

Pennsylvania State Police, teaming with the FBI, recently published a paper attempting to associate "Domestic Terrorism" with "Eco-Terrorism." This is a blatant attempt to associate environmental protest with international terrorist movements. We know that there have been incidents of environmental sabotage in the past. They have been few and far between, and for the most part ineffective. But the State Police document wants to associate such acts with Marcellus Shale protests. Its evidence is negligible. And it doesn't apply to the kinds of actions we endorse.

In fact, industry dumping of fracking fluids in streams, pollution of groundwater, and burning of wastes, in addition to explosive accidents, constitute much more terrorism than any protests ever will.

To resist the forces working against us, we need more member involvement than ever before.

## how to conduct a political advocacy campaign for a candidate

by Peter Wray

Endorsing a candidate is just the beginning of your work with a campaign, not the end. During the endorsement process you will have decided that the candidate has a viable campaign plan with a political base and financial support. Here are some suggestions for making sure that the campaign is successful.

First, meet with the campaign manager and decide on a press release for the endorsement. For a major office, hold a press conference.

Inform the Club's membership of the endorsement. Put an article in the group newsletter. Use the group web site and email lists.

If a donation is available from the Club's Political Action Fund, make sure that donation is in the hands of the candidate ASAP. An early donation can serve as seed money for more fund-raising.

Arrange for the candidate to meet with the Club leadership. This is an opportunity for the leadership to become committed to providing resources for the campaign.

To recruit campaign workers, invite all Club members to something like a breakfast meeting. Small coffee meetings with the candidate in specific neighborhoods are also worthwhile.

With the campaign manager's guidance, decide how to best use the cadre of Club volunteers for door-to-door canvassing. Door knocking by members of a respected organization like the Sierra Club is a very useful.

As election day draws near, help with the campaign's phone banking.

On election day, use volunteers to serve as poll watchers as well as help with getting people to the polls. Additional phone banking after quitting time, focused on known supporters who haven't yet voted, can bring in a few more votes.

When the election is over, attend the victory celebration party. And take time to THANK all the Club volunteers who worked for the campaign.

[ advocacy ]

## coloring outside the lines

By Nathan Richard Sooy

I'll have to admit that I have a big problem with environmentalists.

We are too nice. We are naïve about the way that social change works. And, by and large, we are afraid of the conflict that inevitably comes with pushing for change.

Environmentalists, in many ways, learned the lessons of kindergarten very well. Our teachers taught us to color inside the lines. Coloring inside the lines is not art. It is executing someone else's design. I can only make real art by doing my own drawing and making my own design.

We "color inside the lines" when we follow the government's design for our dissent. The purpose of the government's design is to marginalize our dissent and take us out of public view. Why would they want to do that? If they can marginalize our dissent and take it out of public view, then others are not influenced to join us.

### BUT HOW DO THEY DO THAT?

- Distracting us with their advisory committees
- Getting us organizing thousands of public comments on regulations
- Lobbying people who have no intention of changing their perspectives

I am not saying that we should not speak up and comment regarding the specifics of public policy, legislation, and regulatory proposals. We need to do these things in a manner that increases our numbers and creates useful public attention. As regards the government advisory systems, we need to understand that their ultimate function, from the perspective of the powers-that-be, is not to gather our opinions and expertise so that they can amend policy accordingly. Rather the function is to give us access to people in power but not to give us the power to make our proposals a

reality. This is especially true in the politics of Pennsylvania where the majority of elected public officials are not at all green in their perspective.

So what should we concentrate on? I think we should "color outside the lines".



### WHAT DOES THAT LOOK LIKE?

- Use Advisory Committees to gather useful intelligence that can be used to inform our work as activists.
- Gather comments on regulations but use them more powerfully in two very important ways: 1) Technical comments from our true policy experts become the fodder for reports that can be issued to the press and sent to politicians. 2) Comments from individuals are used to get contact information of people interested in our issues that we can try to convince to become involved in other aspects of our organizational activity.
- We should do mass lobbying in the Senator or Representative's District where they are not expecting it. And we should take the press with us. Small group or individual lobbying can be usefully used with elected officials who are environmentally minded.

But "coloring outside the lines" means much more as well. We must be willing to be troublemakers who are publicly provocative.

We must be effective and creative in how we demand attention action on our proposals. I believe that this needs to be an ongoing conversation in our movement.

*Nathan Richard Sooy is Central Pennsylvania Campaign Coordinator for Clean Water Action and a Sierra Club member.*

## grassroots organizing: Lessons Learned

By William Kramer

All around Pennsylvania, accelerating climate change, fracking and other environmental threats are forcing the Sierra Club to figure out better ways to organize the unorganized. Some of our efforts have been successful and some have not. Let's look at what has worked and what hasn't.

When I first began work on the coal campaign in Philadelphia over three years ago, there was a very small base of activists working on these issues. After sending out emails, making calls, doing one-on-ones and having group meetings, I built up a small core of activists, mainly the usual Sierra Club mix of retirees and professionals.

This group began recruiting others outside the Club by making phone calls, hosting happy hours and collecting names on petitions in public places. We found that there was no shortcut to phone calls, one-on-one meetings and happy hours. Personal connections work.

Early on we developed plans to involve people of color, students and other young people, and trade unionists in our work, but the going was slow. It is hard to overcome the elitist image of the club. And there was a gap that can be typified by our different tastes in music. If your taste is limited to symphony and swing, it is hard to relate to those who rock and rap.

We have been most successful at recruiting People of Color, especially African-Americans, mostly by reaching out to people outside our ranks through happy hours and signature gathering in African American neighborhoods.

We have had some success in working with organizations in the African-American organizations. But it has been difficult to find ways to work together because they have their own priorities, priorities that are more immediate than dirty coal and clean energy. We have offered to help other groups on their issues but no one has ever taken us up on our offer.



Our most successful institutional partnership has been with a Philadelphia veterans center, where we have had strong involvement because the veterans we have worked with have suffered from the impacts of pollution. They feel a sense of public mission based on their military experience, and many veterans are not working because they are living with disabilities.

Our second most successful institutional partnership was built slowly through a relationship with Reverend Geri Pemberton, who was also trained as a registered nurse, and who recently became the health coordinator at the Greater Philadelphia Black Clergy. We were invited to their health fairs at local churches two years in a row. Now we are planning a breakfast for Philadelphia pastors to draw the link between pollution, climate change, and disproportionate impacts on the health of African American communities, especially children.

Some of our most successful work has been on Mountain Top Removal where we worked with several other groups. This issue brought out a variety of activists from Protecting Our Waters, Earth Quaker Action Team, and Rising Tide, veterans, and activists from Appalachia. This work has led to the greatest turnout and highest level of press coverage of any work we have done. It also got us much better connected with other groups.

Our work with veterans has also developed legs. They have attended and spoken at rallies and hearings and are now working with us to do outreach in many places that they know of having grown up in Philadelphia: churches, schools, gyms and Boys and Girls Clubs.

### SOME OF THE KEY LESSONS WE HAVE LEARNED ARE:

- Focus on issues that are getting media attention, which are of strong concern to the public.
- Put time into social events. Building strong bonds between activists is essential. Moreover, unstructured time can often lead to creative brainstorming.
- Do one-on-ones in person or on the phone with potential activists.
- Delegate to activists as much as possible. Having one person (a staff organizer) in charge stifles creativity and slows down decision-making.
- Delegating responsibilities to volunteers, and providing training and coaching, lets volunteer activists develop their abilities. Volunteer activists are often better at recruiting other volunteers than staff because they are peers.
- Our most successful events involved collaboration with other organizations.
- Instead of meetings, check in by evening conference calls where a volunteer activist monitors the task list and sends out regular updates.

[ advocacy ]

## organizing an “issue” campaign

By Randy Francisco

You’ve just found out about an issue that makes you so angry that you feel the need to do something about it. It could be the gas well they want to put in your favorite park, the new coal mine that’s going to tear up a beautiful hill you like to hike on, or a stream you want to protect from polluters upstream. It really doesn’t matter what the issue is, if you want to organize an effort to take it on, you’ll have to engage enough folks to make those who have the power stand up and listen before they make the decision. This will all start with a cup of coffee or a beer with a friend or a friend to be.

### YOU NEED TO ORGANIZE!

You certainly cannot be taking this on by yourself. And if you’re upset, it’s highly likely others are too. Therefore; you need to find out who those folks are, and get to know them. Knock on your neighbor’s doors, email friends, and take some time to get to know them; how much time they may have to invest; and what skills they could bring to bear on the issue.

### AND BUILD A TEAM!

Building your team may take some time but it will be well worth it in the end. You should decide as a team what roles need to be filled. Who else do you need on your team? What skills, community connections, time commitment are needed in order to build the campaign to a winning scale? What tasks will need to be done? These are all important questions to ask. And realize that individuals may want to help you but might not be able to make the commitment to be part of the core team.

### NOW BUILD A MOVEMENT!

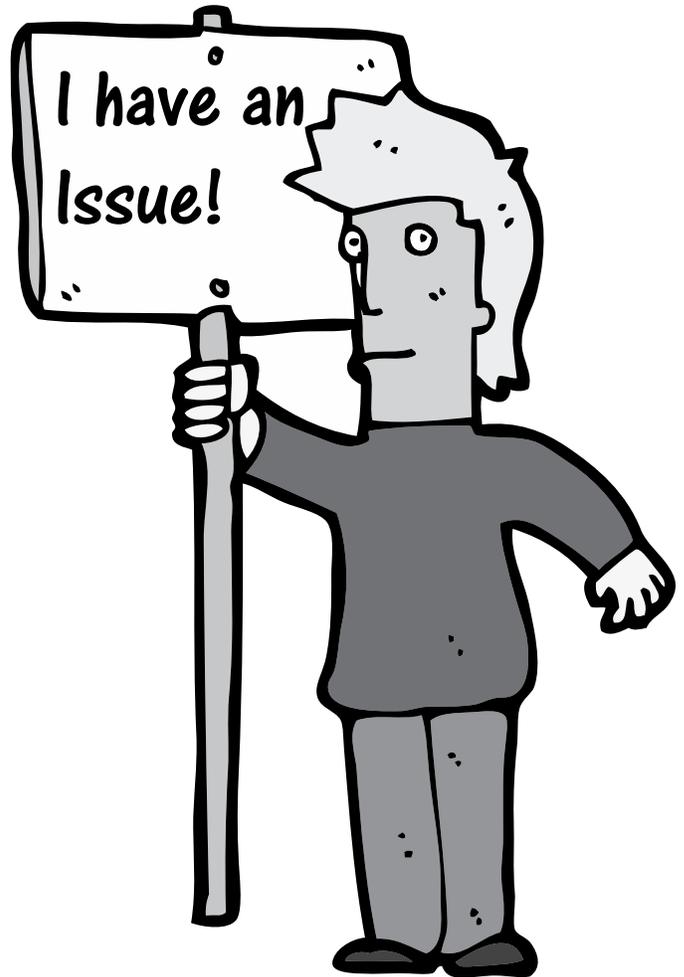
You now have your core team; it’s time to enlist some activists to help. This is the next ring of folks, the ones who really wanted to help but didn’t have the time or possibly the skills needed for the core team. These are the folks you will enlist to knock on doors to get signatures on the petition that your core team has created, or make the phone calls to folks in your neighborhood to get them to call a council person’s office whose vote is needed to protect the stream developers want to destroy.

### NOW YOU’RE ON YOUR WAY TO WINNING.

Make sure you also keep track of your supporters, the ones who didn’t volunteer but signed petitions or agreed to take an action

in support of your efforts. You’ll need to get back to them, thank them and asses if they show some interest in helping you in some way. Some of those supporters will become activists and be knocking on doors, or making phone calls for you in the near future and some of them may have some skills or time to commit to become part of your core team. So here’s where the process circles back to the beginning and makes your effort even stronger. As you encounter those who are as angry as you about the issue, have a cup of coffee or a beer with them and make a new friend.

*Randy Francisco is a Sierra Club Representative for the Beyond Coal Campaign working in southwestern Pennsylvania.*



# how you can use social media to help environmental causes

By Dave Meiser

## FIRST OFF, WHAT IS SOCIAL MEDIA?

It is the use of electronic communication, Web sites for social networking and micro-blogging through which users create online communities to share information, ideas, personal messages, and other content.

## WHAT ARE THE COMMON SOCIAL MEDIA SITES?

The most popular sites are Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Tumblr, Instagram, Pinterest, and LinkedIn and more. Each has its specific "niche." For example, YouTube is primarily where people make and post videos. Tumblr is a "blog" platform and Pinterest and Instagram are places to find and share photos. Twitter is a microblogging site with a 140-character text limit per post. Facebook is a combination of all these aspects and more. LinkedIn is a professional networking platform, which connects people based on professional relationships.

## GETTING STARTED.

It can be somewhat intimidating for new users to understand the ins and outs of all these sites, but don't fret. Getting familiar with each aspect takes time. It's best to start with one and build your knowledge of that particular site before venturing

out. I recommend starting with Facebook and slowly build your friends on that site. The first thing you need to "like" is the chapter's Facebook site, as well as national Sierra Club's site. You can send "friend" requests to people you know and to the club's officers and leaders, as well as other people.

Helping to educate others about the environment is easy as well. Many groups post articles and information from news and other sources regarding environmental issues. You can share those articles on your page, post comments on the article as well as post articles to friends' and associates' pages. Many government/elected officials have pages on which they post information and opinions, which you can comment on if the originator allows it.

Social media is a means of engaging crowds, encouraging action and creating change. Social media proved to be an important tool in such political events as the Arab Spring and Green Revolution in Iran and the Occupy Movement here at home.

Do you receive Sierra Club action alert emails? You can post them to your Facebook page or tweet them on Twitter. If you look at the email usually, there is an icon for Twitter or Facebook which means you can post the email directly by clicking on that icon.

If not, there is usually another link which will say View as a Webpage. If you click on that you can then copy the URL and paste that into Twitter or Facebook.

By sharing this information, we get our word out to more people and help educate them on what is really happening regarding our environment

If you want to get more involved with social media actions, please join our social media team. Contact

Carli Feldman at: [carli.timpson@sierraclub.org](mailto:carli.timpson@sierraclub.org) or 717-232-0101



DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND?

Consider this your invitation to say it on our blog. Yes, the Sierra Club Chapter has a blog that allows our members to share their thoughts, ideas and peevs with the rest of us on Sierra Keystone Conversations.

### THE PROCESS IS SIMPLE.

Submit your blog to: [taylorwj@comcast.net](mailto:taylorwj@comcast.net).

Or, of course, you can just be a regular reader. Find it at: <http://sierraclubpa.blogspot.com/>

When you see one of these icons in an email or post, you can easily click on them to post to your own account. A great way to spread the word to your network.



[ advocacy ]

## you put the “Y” in lobbying

By Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director

When I think about what keeps the Sierra Club strong and relevant after more than 120 years, I think about every person reading this newsletter, and every other Sierra Club member across the country reading their chapter’s newsletter. It is the people behind the organization that give the Club its power - the people who believe in the mission and who are brave enough to speak out and speak up for human health and environmental protection. Even in troubling political times, if we speak often and with a unified voice, we will be heard by those in power.

As the Chapter’s lobbyist, I am tasked with being the direct line between the Sierra Club and the legislature. When I enter the office of a legislator, I don’t just bring with me a well-reasoned argument,

a suit, and the Sierra Club brand; behind me stands every one of our members who is a constituent of that legislator. If you have been in contact with your legislator about the bill or issue I am lobbying on, that is acknowledged and helps to make my visit more effective. Similarly, if your legislator has not heard from you, my appointment will be less persuasive.

Inside the State Capitol, your legislator knows if you have sent them an email (sometimes many emails), a letter, called them on phone, or met with them in their district office. If an issue is important to you, it is critical to let your state senator and representative know what you think they should do or how you think they should

**Even in troubling political times, if we speak often and with a unified voice, we will be heard by those in power.**

vote on a bill. You know they are hearing from the other side, and for us to balance out the loud voice of industry dollars they need to be hearing from more of you, more often.

We may not have the kind of money industry lobbyists have to influence politics, but what we do have are strong-willed, intelligent, and engaged voters. It is you who make it possible for me to get appointments with legislators, and it is your perspective as residents of their districts dealing with the same issues on the ground that helps to convince them to do the right thing and support policies that promote human and environmental health.

However discouraged or skeptical we may feel about the efficacy of our democracy in its current state, if we disengage and keep quiet, only talking with those who think the same, we do ourselves and future generations an injustice. Your legislators value your perspective, even if they do not always agree, and the more they hear from you the more influence we can have on the current and future condition of the Commonwealth.



# taking the long view

By Wendi Taylor

*God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,  
The courage to change the things I can,  
And wisdom to know the difference.*

- Alcoholics Anonymous Serenity Prayer

AA's serenity prayer may seem like good advice for living but not for an environmental activist. Sometimes an activist has to go after the things that cannot be changed, the issue that cannot be won, because we don't know the difference.

In the late 1990's Harrisburg was to become home to the largest medical waste plant in the country. By the time the project became public knowledge, most of the approvals had already been obtained. "It is a done deal," the Harrisburg City Council president had said. But the plant was never built.

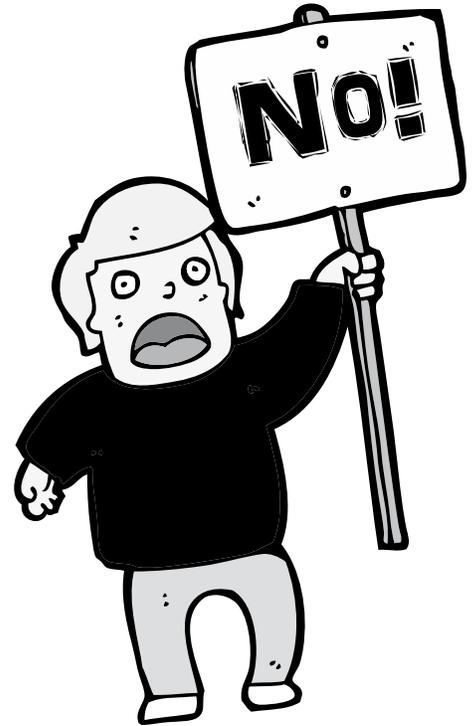
Then, along came the Harrisburg Incinerator project a of couple years later. By all the facts and figures, the incinerator should not have been built. Opposing it seemed to be a winnable issue. It was not won and the incinerator project went forward to the ruination of the city of Harrisburg.

**Global warming and climate change/disruption is one of those issues that must be taken on. Win or lose, we have to be in the struggle.**

Whatever the result, both projects needed someone to stand up and say, "No!" Why? Because in the long run, opposing them was the right thing to do. Activists never go wrong when they are acting on principle. There are some issues that must be taken on, even when we know they are not winnable. Why? Because someone has to speak for the generations that have not yet

been born. Environmental issues have consequences that live on for many generations. When the history of this era is written, we don't want people to ask: "What were they thinking? Why didn't anyone do anything?" Rather, we want the historians to acknowledge our opposition even if it was ignored by those in power.

Global warming and climate change/disruption is one of those issues that must be taken on. Win or lose, we have to be in the struggle. We know that continuing to use fossil fuels is the main driver of global warming. We know that eventually useable fossil fuels will be used up. We know that if we continue to invest billions of dollars to support fossil fuels, we will never stop using them until they are gone. We can imagine a world without power and the chaos it would create.



Further, we know what fossil fuels are doing to our air and water. When the air is not safe to breathe and our water is not safe to drink, then what? Already, we are seeing what climate change is doing to our ability to grow food. When the rain does not fall, even the most fertile land cannot grow anything.

Some people say that going up against big oil and big coal is useless. Those businesses have all the money they need to get what they want. Maybe. Yet, there are modern-day examples of things that we never thought could happen, which did. The Berlin Wall came down. Egyptians protesting in the streets brought down a dictator. We never know which issues we can win until we try. Sometimes we are called to be prophets – those that warn the people – and sometimes we are called to solve problems. We don't always know which when we start out.

We have to take the long view to see that what we do now could be that turning point in our history.

## chapter accepting applications for wyona coleman scholarship



It's Spring! That means it's time to apply for the Wyona Coleman Scholarship. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club awards one or 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 in college.

The Wyona Coleman Scholarship Fund is a memorial to 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 -- at least one from a

community group in which the applicant has done volunteer work, and a 300-word essay on how the student intends use his or her education to protect the environment. The letter of application should include some basic biographical information about the student and attest to the student's financial need. Each essay must include a heading with the applicant's name, home mailing address, email, and phone number.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic potential and financial need.

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

Applications are due June 30 and should be submitted electronically to:

[pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org) Please place the word "Scholarship" in the subject line. The scholarships will be awarded July 15, 2014.

## the 17th annual huplits wildlife grant competition: A Challenge to Protect Animal Wildlife and Habitat in Pennsylvania

The Sierra Club's Huplits Wildlife Grants Committee is seeking grant proposals to help protect animal wildlife and wildlife habitat in Pennsylvania. Approximately \$45,000 will be available for the 2014 Huplits Wildlife Grant Competition. A total of three grants were awarded in last year's competition.

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, grassroots campaign organization, litigation, land acquisition, and scientific research that directly focuses on improving Pennsylvania wildlife and preventing cruelty to animals.

- Generally, projects will be funded for no more than two years. Under special circumstances a project may be extended.

A proposal should include the overall goal of your project, the project objectives, major activities, resources required, project timelines, and a reasonably detailed budget.

**DEADLINE:** Please submit proposals before May 3rd, 2014 to Chris Seymour via e-mail at [tophseymour@gmail.com](mailto:tophseymour@gmail.com). If you have any questions, contact Chris via email or call 412-559-9535.

# [ remembrances ]

## Dr. Judith H. Johnsrud July 1, 1931 – March 9, 2014



Members of the Pennsylvania Chapter remember Judy as a strong and involved leader who worked tirelessly on a variety of environmental issues and who spent countless hours trying to make the Chapter function effectively. Around the world she is remembered for her expert and effective work opposing nuclear power.

World and local issues overlapped suddenly when Three Mile Island Reactor melted down in March 1979. Judy had opposed the reactor before the melt-down, and

was one of the first to demand better information about the accident once it occurred. Judy's expertise helped the Sierra Club take a strong and informed position on nuclear issues. Judy didn't limit her involvement to the Club. She was a leader in several anti-nuclear organizations. She traveled to Chernobyl to witness the extent of radioactivity and the health effects that have lasted to this day.

Judy would travel anywhere to participate in symposia on nuclear issues and to educate wherever she could. She did much of this travel at her own expense and frequently slept in her car on overnight stays to save a few bucks of expense.

Judy studied geography early on and received a PhD from Penn State University. She held faculty positions at several colleges and universities, but gave up her career as a geographer in order to pursue her anti-nuclear advocacy.

She is survived by her partner and companion of some 45 years, Dr. Leon Glicenstein of State College, PA; by her son and daughter-in-law, Robert Johnsrud and Jenny Ross, of Ithaca, N.Y. her grandsons Benjamin, Drew and Theodore; dear friends Karen and Hollis Zelinsky, and her cat, Kat. She died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family who deeply loved her.

Leon had said of her, "She was a lover of cats; discoverer of back roads and alternate routes; heavy appreciator of Bach, Faure, Mozart, and Judy Collins; semi-secret devotee of an erudite murder mystery; book collector, dangerous Scrabble player and secret fan of

small-town Indiana basketball. She was a friend to her colleagues, a deeply loving grandmother, and a devoted sister.

Leaders in the Pennsylvania chapter may not have known her in all those ways, but we remember her as one who would work on mundane things when that was what we needed to stay on track."

She will be missed.



*Judy Johnsrud receives award from national Sierra Cclub.*

# [ remembrances ]

## Arthur Davis 1922 - 2014



*Art Davis in tribute photo portrait at the Rachel Carson Building.*

It is with sadness that we report that Art Davis passed away. He died peacefully at home on March 9, 2014 surrounded by Neen and other members of the family.

Art served as Secretary of Department of Environmental Resources (DER) from 1987 through 1994. Many of us remember the quarterly meetings that Art and his deputies held with conservation and environmental groups. During these meetings, which were usually in the evening in the capitol, Art was willing to agree or disagree with what the various organiza-

tions discussed, and worked openly on strategies to accomplish the issues where there was agreement.

Among his accomplishments while Secretary was to help DER navigate through bitter fights with legislators and private interests about landfills and recycling. He was strict enforcer of hazardous waste policy and protections for wetlands and waterways, and pressed for clean-up and accountability for the 1990 oil spill on the Allegheny River in Pittsburgh. One of his proudest accomplishments was establishing Pennsylvania's mandatory recycling program that is among the most progressive in the nation. He fought for funding for State Parks, remarking there was never enough. Art worked to ensure surface mining clean-up and reclamation and to enforce the posting of bonds by coal companies to ensure reclamation.

On the 20th anniversary of Earth Day in 1990, he made his way to work by canoeing across the Susquehanna River. This was a symbolic act, but it also reflected on his love of canoe touring.

Many of us have had the pleasure of paddling with Art and Neen on the Susquehanna. He and Neen were best known for their numerous wilderness trips down wild rivers in

Canada and northern U.S. He and Neen are avid birders, both backyard and at Middle Creek and nearby birding spots. He and Neen enjoyed living along the Conodoguinet Creek and stewarded their forested tract along the creek.

Art was known for his wit and his colorful sayings are in use today by many who know Art. My personal favorite is "We'll jump off that bridge when we come to it" Another favorite was "This soap's been around the bathtub before."

Prior to his service in DER, Art served as the Goddard Chair at Penn State, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, and US Fish and Wildlife Service (where he worked for protection of the White River in Arkansas). His work at Western Pennsylvania Conservancy focused on the conservation of Pennsylvania's northern forests.

He also believed that the story of conservation in Pennsylvania has to be shared with the public. He humbly viewed his role in history as providing some leadership in his limited time in influencing state policy.

This obituary offered by Cindy Adams Dunn, President and CEO, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture). Cindy worked for and with Art when he was Secretary of DER.



*[left] Art watches Governor Casey sign Earth Day declaration, 1990. [right] Art has fun with Smokey the Forest Service Bear.*



## eat your yard!

By Susan Norris, certified permaculture designer

Imagine walking out your back door to pick fresh asparagus and herbs for your breakfast omelet, with eggs coming from your three chickens housed in a small coop near the garage.

On the way to collecting eggs and feeding the chickens, you check on the progress of the rhubarb (for pie) and the stinging nettles (fresh greens for soup and dried leaves for warming winter tea). The bees from your hive are making their rounds to all your vegetables, native flowers, herbs and fruit trees and, in the fall, will provide honey for your herbal teas.

The rain barrels at the corners of the garage are full from last night's rain and will provide enough water to keep the annual vegetables going through the driest part of the summer. Excess runoff is diverted into a swale near the chicken coop, providing the girls with habitat for some tasty bugs, and cool water for summer bathing.

Your front yard provides apples and blueberries for pies, currants for jelly and lavender for sachets. This coming winter, the



lettuce, chard and collards will stay healthy under row covers and inches of snow and provide you with fresh greens through the coldest months, while the carrots and Jerusalem artichokes wait just under the thick mulch to be added to your next thick nourishing stew. Hazelnuts, hickory nuts, walnuts, squash, home-canned beans, beets and tomatoes fill your root cellar. The old tomato and potato plants, kitchen scraps and other "waste" is recycled into soil via the compost bin near the chicken coop.

This is permaculture: permanent agriculture, growing food-bearing perennials supplemented with annual vegetables. It doesn't look like a typical garden with neat rows, but rather more like a perennial edible forest or landscape. Why plant another ornamental shrub (which feeds nothing) when you can plant a fig, bayberry or Virginia rose? And why plant in a single layer (rows of corn), when you can plant on multiple layers (nut tree, apple or peach tree, blueberry, strawberry, grape vine, mushroom log) and produce four times as much food from the same amount of land?

Permaculture is one of the best tools for mitigating climate change by sequestering carbon, reducing the number of food miles, and eliminating the need for synthetic fertilizers. It is the "Victory Garden" for the twenty-first century and beyond.

Permaculture was started in Australia in the 1970s by Bill Mollison and David Holmgren. They saw the need for a truly sustainable agriculture, "based on a multi-crop of perennial trees, shrubs, herbs (vegetables and weeds), fungi, root systems.... combining architecture with biology, agriculture with forestry, and forestry with animal husbandry..." [Introduction to Permaculture, by Bill Mollison, 1991]

Permaculture is a whole human system, reintegrating us into Earth's natural cycles,



## Eat Your Yard HARRISBURG!

where we become a beneficial species instead of a destructive one. This system has a foundation of three ethics: care of the Earth, care of one another, and of sharing the surplus with all beings. There are also about a dozen principles guiding the overall design of each site, including: continuous careful observation of the site and all its inputs and out-flows, establishing zones of use, valuing interplay and interdependency among all elements, valuing diversity, using small and slow solutions, and producing no waste.

There are 32 million acres of lawn in the United States, which are an energy drain, time drain, money drain and fossil fuel drain. A permaculture yard enriches the soil, feeds humans, birds, insects and amphibians, is rich in biodiversity, provides shade, stores water, produces surplus energy and is beautiful.

Permaculture is practiced all over the world in all inhabited climates, on porches and balconies, on farms, in forests and deserts. Once a permaculture site is established, fewer and fewer human inputs are required, until the system becomes self-sustaining and self-regulating, the same way Earth's natural systems are self-sustaining and self-regulating.

*continued on next page*

## eat your yard! (continued from page 21)

Pennsylvania's temperate climate is one of the most productive in the world, but industrial agriculture is not using this bounty appropriately or sustainably. Instead of cutting down acres of woodland to grow annual row crops or to graze herds of cattle, permaculture design integrates food crops and animals into that forest system while restoring the health of that system.

Our current poorly designed industrial agricultural systems also require vast amounts of energy, mostly in the form of fossil fuels. It's estimated that 10 calories of energy are used to produce one calorie of food! This is certainly not sustainable. A properly designed permaculture landscape produces far more calories than is used to create and maintain it.

Permaculture reduces stormwater runoff by sequestering water, lightening the toxic load for the Chesapeake Bay, provides habitat for native birds and insects with increased biodiversity, reduces heating and cooling costs by providing shade, reduces carbon releases by lowering our energy usage and by sequestering carbon, increases our physical and mental health by reconnecting us to nature, and increases our self-sufficiency by providing our food.



*Susan is a life-long resident of Pennsylvania and has a life-long interest in environmental issues, resulting in her multi-year quest to become educated in permaculture, transition towns, alternative building, alternative currencies, herbalism, and beekeeping. Her business, Eat Your Yard, Harrisburg!, provides permaculture design services to individuals and businesses in the Susquehanna watershed. Contact Susan at 717-805-3612 or eyyhbg@gmail.com*

*Further reading: Introduction to Permaculture, by Bill Mollison; Restoration Agriculture by Mark Shepard; Gai'a's Garden, by Toby Hemenway; How to*

*Grow More Vegetables..., by John Jeavons.*

*A few of the many local resources: eyyhbg.blogspot.com (Susan's blog); permaculturepodcast.com (by Scott Mann, Dauphin, PA); Susquehanna Farm School Facebook page (Lancaster, PA); Polyfacefarm.com (Joel Salatin's farm in Virginia).*

*A good introduction to permaculture is the BBC documentary, "A Farm for the Future" by Rebecca Hosking (on YouTube). Videos by Geoff Lawton and Toby Hemenway are excellent (also on YouTube).*

# [ meetings and outings ]

## Meetings and Outings

For up-to-date information, please see the websites listed below.

Chapter Executive Committee  
<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org>  
Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PASierraClub>  
Follow us on Twitter: @SierraClubPA

**Allegheny Group**  
[www.alleghenysc.org](http://www.alleghenysc.org)

**Governor Pinchot Group**  
<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org>  
Pinchot

## Kittatinny Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/kit/>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Sierra.Kitt.Club>

## Lake Erie Group

[www.lakeeriegroup.webs.com](http://www.lakeeriegroup.webs.com)

## Lancaster Group

[www.lancastersierraclub.org](http://www.lancastersierraclub.org)  
Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublancaster>  
Email: [sierraclublancaster@yahoo.com](mailto:sierraclublancaster@yahoo.com)

## Lehigh Valley Group

<http://sierraclublv.wordpress.com/>

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/sierraclublv>

## Moshannon Group

[www.sierramsh.org](http://www.sierramsh.org)

Follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/112180198821601/>  
<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/outings.html>

## Northeastern Group

[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/northeastern)

## Otzinachson Group

<http://otzinachson.wordpress.com>

Follow us on Facebook: (<https://www.facebook.com/Otzinachson?ref=ts&fref=ts>)

## Southeastern Group

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/southeastern>

## answers to crossword puzzle

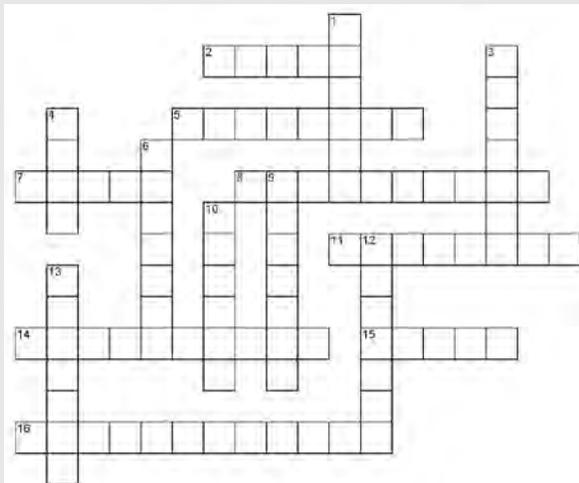
(from page 24)

### Across

- 2. DONNE
- 5. ZAHNISER
- 7. DAVIS
- 8. THORNBLOOM
- 11. JOHNSRUD
- 14. GRASSROOTS
- 15. SANDY
- 16. PERMACULTURE

### Down

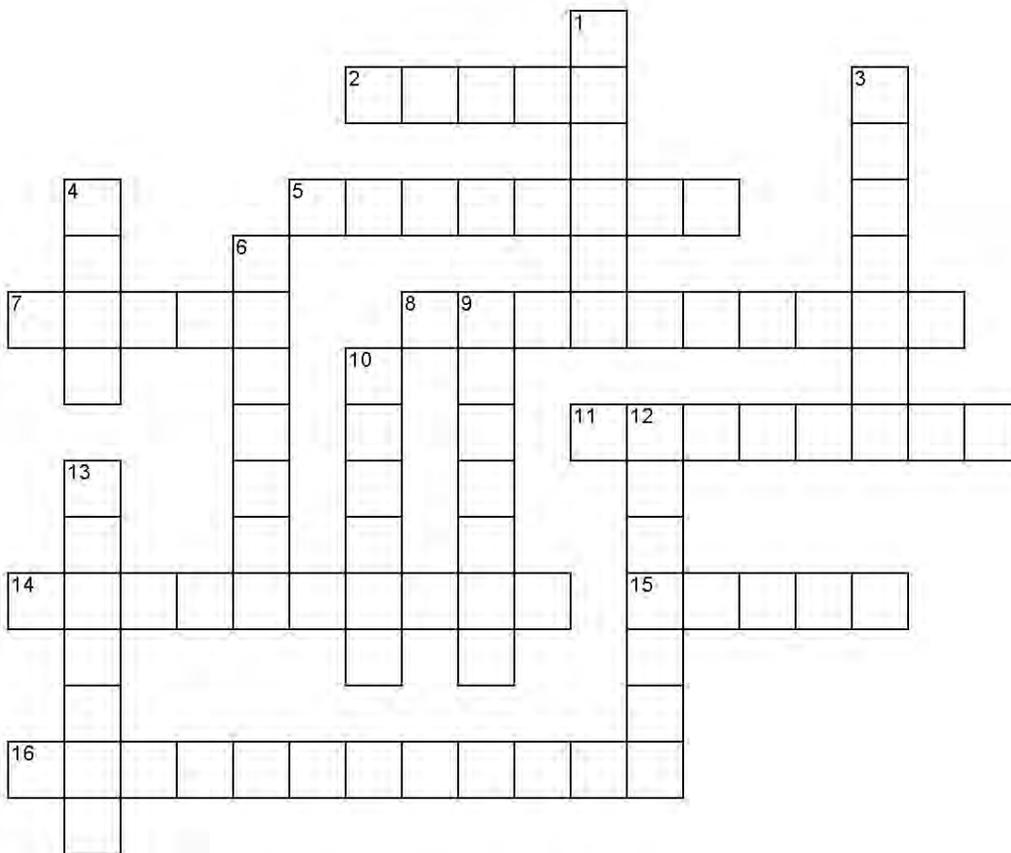
- 1. MEISER
- 3. KILGOUR
- 4. WRAY
- 6. ISLANDS
- 9. HUPLITS
- 10. ACTION
- 12. OUTSIDE
- 13. GARDNER





explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

# [ spring crossword ]



## Across

- 2 John \_\_\_\_\_ wrote, "If a clod be washed away..."
- 5 Author of the Wilderness Act
- 7 DER secretary who loved forests and rivers
- 8 Gary \_\_\_\_\_ enjoys PA
- 11 Nuclear protestor who will be missed
- 14 What big guys call little guys
- 15 Big small stream
- 16 A better approach to agriculture

## Down

- 1 David \_\_\_\_\_ tweets and twitters
- 3 Offers the View from Harrisburg
- 4 Peter \_\_\_\_\_, Political Organizer
- 6 Allegheny River \_\_\_\_\_ wilderness
- 9 Wildlife grants
- 10 Political \_\_\_\_\_ Fund
- 12 Coloring \_\_\_\_\_ the lines
- 13 Campaign organizer new to Harrisburg