


[the sylvanian]

summer 2016

Pennsylvania Chapter Sierra Club • pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

[celebrating our volunteers]



// Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in".

— Author Unknown



SIERRA CLUB
PENNSYLVANIA

explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

[from the editors]

the volunteer issue

If things seem quiet in this issue, just wait until Fall when things will heat up.

Right now, we are concentrating on our most active members -- **our volunteers, our hikers, boaters, campers and our leaders.**

Sierra Club has a capable and useful staff. Sometimes it seems that we depend on them. But we are a volunteer organization. Without an army of volunteers, we could not do the things we do.

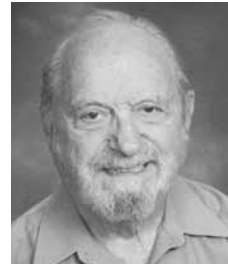
With our volunteers, we are the most visible, most dynamic, most effective environmental organization in the state, in the nation.

In this issue, we honor leaders of all kinds, most of whom have years of experience. We also honor two leaders who have passed on. And we recognize a scholar who may well become a leader for decades to come.

As you scan this issue, ask yourself how you can do more to help our cause.



Wendi Taylor



Phil Coleman

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



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:
pennsylvania.chapter@sierraclub.org

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

[the sylvanian]

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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 September 15 (Fall
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(Spring issue), and June 15 (Summer 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.

The Sierra Club seeks to become a fully
realized multicultural organization and is
working to make the systemic changes
required to welcome, respect, support,
and value any individual or group to fully
participate.

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[on the cover]

Aristotle is quoted as saying that “the
whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”
The Pennsylvania Sierra Club is a great
example. Our chapter is greater due to the
contribution of our volunteers. From the
hikers to the boaters to the leaders to the
readers. All of us contribute to the whole.

We contribute not only to make the chap-
ter better, but to make a better world.

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next deadline: September 15

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chapter directory

See Page 23. To view the complete directory,
go to: <http://pennsylvanian.sierraclub.org>
and select “Volunteer Resources.” The password is:
VolunteersRule

[the view from harrisburg]

by Joanne Kilgour, Chapter Director

Following last year's state budget fiasco – a process that ended nearly nine months after the June 30th deadline, putting strain on our schools, nonprofits, and communities – it was clear that this year would have to be different. However, though the Legislature and the Governor were able to come to a budget agreement much more quickly, the budget-season subterfuge, to which we have sadly become accustomed, was just as present this year as last. With the hard-fought Chapter 78/78a oil and gas surface regulations, support for early compliance with the Clean Power Plan, privatization of our state parks, and the regulatory review process all hanging in the balance, it was a busy spring for the environmental lobby in Harrisburg.

OIL AND GAS REGULATIONS, CLEAN POWER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN THE BUDGET BALANCE

One of the most significant attacks on the environment this year has been the effort to prevent the Chapter 78 and 78a oil and gas surface regulations from being finalized. These regulations have been



in development for roughly five years, seen 12 public hearings, and been the subject of 30,000 public comments. In late April, after significant input from Sierra Club members and testimony from Chapter volunteer leaders Thomas Au and Justina Wasicek, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) approved the regulatory package by a narrow vote of 3-2, deeming the regulations in the public interest. But the Legislature was

quick to respond, exercising an infrequently-used power to propose a legislative resolution to oppose the regulations and prevent them from moving forward. This Chapter 78 disapproval resolution was initiated in the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee in early May following the IRRC vote and though it passed out committee, was not brought up for consideration by the full floor prior to the last day for action as required by the rules.

Instead, perhaps out of fear for losing the entirety of the Chapter 78/78a package or to set a tone of compromise for the final stages of the budget negotiation, the Governor and the Legislature made a deal to allow a different legislative vehicle to move forward - this time in the form of Senate Bill 279. This bill prevented the Chapter 78 regulations from moving forward as they pertain to conventional oil and gas operations, but would let the Chapter 78a regulations pertaining to unconventional oil and gas operations move forward. Conventional drilling is performed in shallower formations and unconventional drilling is performed deeper, such as in the Marcellus shale formation. While both industries use “fracking,” the common use of the term most often refers to unconventional drilling.

We, along with our allies and the help of our champions in the legislature, worked diligently to oppose this effort and preserve these hard-fought protections for public health and the environment. Unfortunately, despite our efforts, the legislature passed SB 279 and we will be forced to go back to the drawing board to secure new surface regulations for conventional oil and gas development. Our advocacy did make a difference, however, because the regulations pertaining to unconventional development will move forward and the process for promulgating the regulations for conventional oil and gas operations will be expedited.

Unfortunately, the pre-budget compromise between the Governor and some members of Legislative leadership also included a bill that will impact the timeline for submission of a state plan to implement the Clean Power Plan. That bill, Senate Bill 1195, amends Act 175 of 2014, the Greenhouse Gas Regulation Implementation Act, and provides additional time for the Legislature to review and approve the proposed State Implementation Plan (SIP) of the Clean Power Plan, possibly adding as much as a two-year delay in the DEP's ability to submit a SIP to the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It aligns the state's submission timeline with the “extension deadline” provided in the final EPA rule. Despite this legislation, which we opposed and fought, we will continue to work with the Department of Environmental Protection and our allies to ensure that the state crafts a plan that is best for the health and environment of this Commonwealth, and we will continue to push for its timely submission to EPA.

A WIN FOR THE PEOPLE, A WIN FOR THE PARKS

Although we were not able to defeat SB 279 and SB 1195, we have had some success - and some surprises - so far this session. First, we were successful in preventing two identical bills - House Bill 965 and Senate Bill 562 - from moving. These bills, which we have been calling the “bad IRRC” bills - would give the legislature - and even potentially just one committee chair - the ability to hold up a regulatory package for an extraordinary amount of time, and possibly so much time that the regulatory clock would expire and require the process to be restarted. Pennsylvania already has an overwrought and controversial regulatory review process and legislative overreach into regulatory issues (as we saw play out on the oil and gas regulations). And though both bills passed their respec-

[transitions]

tive chambers, we successfully prevented them from becoming part of the budget deal.

And, finally, amid so much struggle - a win! As summer began to kick into full swing, and as many of us looked to enjoy warm days with friends and family in the amazing Pennsylvania State Park system, the legislature had a different idea; they decided to move House Bill 2013, a bill that would have advanced private recreational development of our state park system. This bill would have created a public-private partnerships board to review and recommend to the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) public-private partnerships to "enhance" our state parks with facilities including golf courses, office buildings, and amusement parks. HB 2013 would have required the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to hire a consultant to assess Pennsylvania's state park assets and recommend new public-private projects for recreational uses as defined in the statute, and listed above - opening the door to subsidized private development of our shared, treasured, public lands.

We - along with the help of so many members like you - spoke out loudly against this legislation because DCNR already has the authority to enter into public-private partnerships and because that agency, as advised by the public not private interests, is in the best position to make land management decisions about appropriate projects and facilities on state park lands. For a time, there seemed to be strong support for this bill - with the appeal of private development on public lands trending throughout the country - but by banding together with the conservation and sportsmen communities, on June 28th we saw one of our most surprising and satisfying victories of the session; we defeated the bill 77-123 in the House of Representatives! With that, let us all breathe a little easier on our hikes, picnics, and fishing trips in the state parks this summer.

Carli Feldman moves on

In June the Chapter's Volunteer Coordinator Carli Feldman gave her notice and with mixed emotions moved on to pursue a new career in accounting. Carli began as administrative assistant about three years ago and within two years was promoted to Volunteer Coordinator.

Carli was a good match for the Sierra Club. She was always helpful to volunteers, willing to take on new tasks, and had social media skills, which were essential to expand the Chapter's on-line presence.

Recently, she had taken on more responsibilities to assist the Chapter Treasurer with completing the documentation required by the Sierra Club's Foundation to receive funding. While we are sorry to see Carli leave the Club we wish her well in her new position.

The Chapter is working to find Carli's replacement, who should be on board sometime in the Fall.

new climate works coordinator



We are excited to announce the newest member of the PA Chapter staff, Charlie Isaacs, who will serve as our Philadelphia Climate Works Campaign Program Coordinator. Some of you may know Charlie as a volunteer in the Philadelphia area who has been actively engaged with the Beyond Coal team and the SPG group, and who was recently honored by the Southeast Group with a Group Star award at our Annual Awards dinner in Raccoon Creek State Park.

[explore enjoy...pennsylvania]

riding with the “godfather of the pine creek rail trail”

by Gary Thornbloom



After seeing the trail from Pine Creek while paddling, I knew that biking it was next. I reached out to David Ira Kagan.

Dave, a retired English and Mathematics teacher, has written the book, *Pine Creek Villages*, and rides over 4,000 miles a year on Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT), and is referred to by many as the “Godfather of the Pine Creek Trail.” What followed was an informative, interesting day!

Bike trails, particularly rails-to-trails, are for everyone. Pine Creek Rail Trail (PCRT) – 62 miles from Wellsboro to Jersey Shore — follows Pine Creek on a railroad grade from the 1800’s and has a 2-percent grade. Which way the wind is blowing will have the strongest impact on your peddling!

The Jersey Shore terminus, or 3.4 miles further the Whitetail access area - both include parking and toilets - are nice places to begin. Our day on the PCRT began north of there at Dave’s home.

If you are not riding with the “Godfather

of the Pine Creek Trail” his book *Pine Creek Villages* and his friend Linda Stager’s book *The Pine Creek Rail-Trail Guidebook* will be rewarding trail companions.

Pine Creek is rich with history. Native Americans used the stream and valley as a highway. The earliest white settlers also gravitated to this natural corridor. This section includes three steel truss bridges from the railroad era of more than a century ago.

Stone monuments that include a number and the letter “L” are also relics from the railroad days. The number is the miles from the company headquarters in Lyons - “L” - New York.

Not long after we started riding we came to a tree that had fallen across the trail. Dave predicted that the tree would be cleaned up by the time we returned, and it was! Dave praised the work done by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in keeping the trail in prime condition.

As we pedaled north the trail community became obvious as Dave greeted people he has met while pedaling five or more times each week. Betty was one of the colorful characters with whom we stopped to talk. She is a motivated septuagenarian riding 20 miles on her three-wheeler that day. After moving from a farm with horses that she enjoyed riding, she has settled into riding a three-wheeler on PCRT.

A class of elementary school students was at the Bonnell Flats camping area taking a break from biking while looking at samples of organisms in Pine Creek water. They caught up to us later as we finished lunch and they stopped for ice cream.

Dave told me about a nonagenarian who will soon turn 91 and rides the

PCRT regularly. Trail riders develop a sense of camaraderie.

Opportunities for viewing wildlife are plentiful. Betty described a close, enchanting, encounter with a fawn a few days earlier. The PCRT Facebook Page is the place to go to learn what is currently happening on PCRT, including what wildlife people are seeing. Eagles, geese, bears, deer, and snakes - timber rattlers get a lot of attention - are some of the recent sightings. One rider recently encountered a dozen timber rattlers.

Wildflowers are also abundant along the trail. Currently two that are the most admired by riders on this section include dame’s rocket and greater celandine, both which are beautiful but invasive. Forget-me-not was thick along a short section of the path.

Native flowers include mayapple: umbrella leaves with bold white flowers

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[chapter news]

Lake Erie Group – Trails Connecting People with Nature

...Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

—John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club

In June the Sierra Club Lake Erie Group and the City of Erie's Department of Public Works, Property & Parks broke ground on improvements to McClelland Park, creating a trail accessible for everyone.

Chuck Benson, Chair of the Lake Erie Group called Erie's McClelland Park a "gem within a gem of a city." It is 56 acres of meadows, woodlands, wetlands with a creek that meanders through it on the way to Lake Erie."

The project was made possible by the City of Erie, a major grant from the Sierra Club Foundation, and the vision and support of many valued partners working together. This trail improve-

ments project was unveiled at an event held on June 9, which marked the official ground breaking of McClelland Park's Accessible Trail Improvements project.

Green space is a welcome mat in any urban area and much needed in Erie's east side. The park entrance is on south side of East 26 Street at corner of McClelland Ave. The new accessible trail in McClelland Park will provide recreational and educational opportunities for all to enjoy, with special care given to accommodate those with disabilities.

This is an example of a true community effort. The Presque Isle Audubon Society and Custom Engineering Co. are helping fund this project with generous grants. Other partners supporting this collaboration between the City of Erie and the Club include: Burton-Diehl Neighborhood Organi-



zation, Erie Public Schools, Erie Boys and Girls Club, Erie Housing Authority, Erie Branch NAACP, Environment Erie, Lake Erie Region Conservancy, Mercyhurst University, House of Mercy, Winds of Change, Voices for Independence, Adam J. Trott Architect, and Civitas.

Announcing the Southeastern Group's New-to-You! Outings

The Southeastern Group is sponsoring a series of new family- and beginners-friendly outings with a focus on conservation, education, and advocacy. Check out our fall offerings below!

August 13th: We're partnering with Bartram's Gardens to provide a family-friendly, hands-on opportunity to learn about kayaks, canoes, rowboats, and paddle boards on the river! Registration for this has closed but we will be

planning another similar event soon.

September 10th: This day hike in the Lehigh Valley will be an hands-on opportunity to learn about acid mine drainage and citizen science efforts to address the impacts of the coal industry in Pennsylvania! This is a family-friendly outing, but our recommendation is that participants be at least 10 years old.

October date TBD: For this outing, we will be back on the Schuylkill for a

boat tour of refineries and industrial sites along the river. Stops include the Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery and oil train rail lines.

November/December dates TBD: Options include learning about raptor migration and a trip to a wind farm or a bike ride along the Schuylkill River

Got an idea for an outing? Want to learn about upcoming programs? Email me at kwaszilla@gmail.com!

[coleman's lantern]

our message in transition

by Phil Coleman

Just after the first Earth Day, when the Pennsylvania Chapter was created, our leadership was a mixed group with only one thing in common: we were new to the Sierra Club. Today, our leadership consists mostly of people who have been around for a while. As veterans of environmental wars, we feel that we know it all and have done it all. We have a natural tendency to want to tell our younger members what they should do. But we need to back off a little. We need to encourage young activists to stay around, to let them tell us how to do things, to replace us as leaders.

The Sierra Club is proud of its history and its historic beginnings, but it must stay young. No member of the Pennsylvania Chapter has hiked the Sierras like John Muir did. But no member of the founding directors knew a thing about fracking. The population of the United States has tripled since 1892. Pressures on our wild areas are more extreme than ever. We still declare, and proudly, our motto "Explore, Enjoy, Protect." But the threats have taken new forms, and our modes of protection must evolve as well.

Back in 1983 (approximately), I started *The Sylvanian*. Before that we had a "Chapter Insert," a two-page summary of chapter news that groups could insert in their group newsletters. I remember that Sherry Knowlton was editor of the insert before I took it over. I knew a bit about newspaper production and had a friend who owned a small town newspaper, so I was in a perfect position to turn to

newsprint. I got the Chapter to find the funds to produce and mail a tabloid. I was particularly proud of the name – *The Sylvanian* – in Pennsylvania where our great natural asset is forest. At that point, *The Sylvanian* was a bi-monthly tabloid.

After nine years, I decided to concentrate on other things. I passed *The Sylvanian* on to a series of editors. One notable: Carol Fryday took over about 2007. She converted *The Sylvanian* from tabloid format to the magazine format it now has.

When we had to find ways to cut costs, Wendi Taylor and I took over as co-editors. We are comfortable working together, but once one of us has had enough both of us will undoubtedly quit. At one point a few years ago, we decided to save money and just distribute *The Sylvanian* electronically, but we quickly learned that we could not deliver that way to even one half our members.

There may be a time when blogging and tweeting replace print and mail, but we aren't there yet. When that time comes, we will step aside for someone who is more comfortable on line than we are.

explore enjoy...

continued from page 6

concealed beneath the leaves; spreads by an underground root system and forms what it is easy to imagine as miniature forests for pixies. Wild columbine also grows in small patches.

Periodically echoes from the past called out to Dave. We stopped at Catharine Bonnell's grave site — she died in 1852 at the age of one year; the site of Camp Kline, which for over 50 years was home to the bustle of Boy Scout busyness; and the Waterville Tavern built in 1825, where log drivers once made the place ring with rowdiness. Today it was likely cold Yuengling and delicious corned beef Reuben that called out to Dave from the Waterville Tavern.

Dave pointed out a church that is now a private home and the cemetery out back. We pedaled several miles further north to Jersey Mills and left homes behind. We were surrounded by Tiadaghton State Forest. The possibility of seeing wildlife increased. We saw a water snake stretched out on the trail.

Occasionally there are benches where you can stop and take in peaceful views of Pine Creek. Mountains, side streams with waterfalls, water rivulets dropping over rock faces, wildflowers, wildlife, fog from side streams — the views change daily, by the mile, and even hourly.

We rode 11.5 miles north and then retraced our route for a 23 mile ride.

"A day on the Pine Creek Rail Trail is a day well spent" is how Dave summed up his feelings about riding on the trail. Those days include a wide range of weather, and encounters. Some of his favorite rides include riding through an unprecedented number of lightning bugs, beneath a full moon, and through a snow squall with a full moon.

The Jersey Shore terminus is an easily accessible entry point to the PCRT. The trail is well maintained, offers something for everyone, and is worth looking into!

12 habits of highly effective activists

by Wendi Taylor

Being an activist takes work but done right, it can be fun, rewarding, and renew our faith in people. While I am no expert in the field of human behavior, I have worked on many issues. I know that to win, we have to be highly effective activists.

That got me thinking: What makes an activist highly effective? I borrowed the title from Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and made my list of 12 habits. Admittedly, I fall down on some of the "ups" on my list but here they are just the same.

The 12 habits of highly effective activists are people who:

Read up – In order to be a good advocate and activist, we have to know what we are talking about. We need to read and learn about the topic so we understand the position we are taking. We also have to know the arguments of those on the other side. Knowing our issue helps us to identify extraneous arguments and erroneous facts.

Keep up – We need to keep up with current developments concerning our issue to look for new information that might support our position. Activists that are opposing the proposed natural gas pipelines got new ammunition to support their position in late April, when a natural gas pipeline exploded in Salem Township, Westmoreland County. That explosion proved that pipelines are dangerous. It leveled a home, sent a young man to the hospital with serious burns and left a crater roughly 30 feet by 50 feet, by 12 feet deep. It created a burn zone roughly one-quarter mile in diameter.

Think up – Good activists think about what we want to accomplish with a particular action and devise

a message that fits the goal. Being prepared with a clear, concise message keeps us focused and can be used to invite others to join us. When someone asks what we want, we are prepared with a well thought-out message.

Join up – Activists are joiners. They sign up to participate with other people to advocate on the issue. Doing things with others give us courage to do new things. It is also more fun to do things together.

Dream up – Activists like to dream up creative ways to get the message across. Using creativity can help make events more fun and grab more media attention – which allows you to reach a wider audience. Long-time activist, Gene Stilp, dreamed up the "Pink Pig," which became synonymous with legislative excesses. With some imagination, we can turn our message into a memorable idea.

Open up – Activists are willing to open up and disclose personal things about ourselves. We think of ways we can get our message across from our own personal stories. Whether we are meeting with a public official or writing a letter to the editor, our stories can breathe new life into the conversation. Further, people cannot argue with our personal experiences and sometimes they may think differently about a similar experience they had.

Listen up – Activists listen more than they talk. We listen to learn what values are important to other people. Once we understand another person's values, we know where to begin our conversation. We start with the values we share and move the conversation to another way of thinking about the issue.

Speak up – At the very least, activists speak up! Whether we visit, write or call our elected officials, write a letter to the editor, or use the public comment period at meetings, we do not let others operate under false premises. When we know something is not true, we correct the record.

Follow up – Activists follow up on our commitments and don't promise to do something they are not willing to do. If we promise additional information, we provide it. If we promise to call, we do it. Further, we follow up and thank people who have given their time to work with us.

Show up – Activists show up for rallies, events and meetings so that people see us. When we show up, we show our power. When we stay home, we show our weakness. Many people are willing to talk about all the things that we should do. Activists don't just talk about doing something; they actually show up and do something.

Build up – Activists naturally build up a personal network of friends and acquaintances. There is no better way to make new friends than working together on an issue. These friendships help build loyalty to the issue and to each other. Our friends will keep us coming out even when we are tired or discouraged.

Back up – Activists back up each other, especially in public. We show a united front and provide back up for our fellow activists. If we disagree on a minor issue, we do so privately. Publicly, we are united in our goal.

forging a movement for justice

In April the Sierra Club sent about 50 Sierra Club staff and volunteers to the 17th annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) in Philadelphia. Why did the Club prioritize getting people to this conference? The Club’s new Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), Nellis Kennedy-Howard, said we need to educate ourselves about racism, white privilege, and the many aspects of living in a diverse society so we can be good allies in a broad movement for change.

When Kennedy-Howard met with the Sierra Club folks attending the conference, she described the movement as a dance of stepping up and stepping back. “And we must be sure we’re stepping up, not stepping on!”

The following articles were written by Sue Edwards, Chapter Diversity Chair, and Tom Schuster, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign.

listening well and asking good questions

by Sue Edwards, Chapter Diversity Chair

The theme of the conference, which drew 2,500 people, was “Let Freedom Ring - Re-Imagining Equity and Justice in the U.S.” It called upon people to “work for equity and justice by addressing the material realities, extreme poverty, and lack of economic opportunities facing people of color in Philadelphia and around the nation.”

Verna Myers, author and consultant, said it’s a great time to do anti-racism work because there is a multi-racial, multi-generational movement happening now. To be part of the movement, we have to stop worrying about “what if I say the wrong thing? We have to be wrong to get right,” she said. “It’s not about perfection, but connection.”

This was my second time attending the WPC, and each time I learned a lot. Did you know that 1100 Black men have been killed by police since Michael Brown’s death in 2014 in Ferguson, MO? Or that Philadelphia has a 20 year gap in life expectancy between different zip codes, the highest of any major city? We can assume that both the stress of living in a racist society and the pollution visited upon poor communities and communities of color play a part in this.

For me, there is a direct connection between the environmental work we do and the themes of the WPC, and that is that a socio-economic system based on greed produces both great economic disparities and also great disregard for the environment. It can only continue to function when the vast majority of its people are kept from uniting. One of the major mechanisms the US has settled on to keep people apart is racism. When racism reigns, uniting the country around clean power is that

much more difficult.

An African American plenary speaker shared a very moving recording of having “the talk” with his young son about how to conduct himself with integrity in an often unfair world.

Did you know that 1100 Black men have been killed by police since Michael Brown’s death in 2014 in Ferguson, MO?

What I found resonated in many of the workshops was the importance of listening well and asking good questions that give people an opportunity to think out loud. As we talk to people about the challenges of environmental disruption and climate change, these skills will play an essential role. An excellent resource referenced by one speaker is Fran Peavey’s “Strategic Questioning Manual” (available at <http://www.gettysburg.edu/dotAsset/6b2841ef-2185-4924-888f-bbe-0349338ca.pdf>). She emphasizes the need for deep, respectful listening to find both common ground and also new solutions that may occur to the listener or the listenee.

Joe Fahey, a retired Teamsters Union leader and one of the workshop leaders, urged people to seize many opportunities to try things and see what works. He described one-on-one listening as “listening people forward.”

One of the workshops explored some of the terms we use to describe the change that is needed. Terms like “inclusion” and “diversity” may convey their own kinds of privilege. When we talk about inclusion, we have to ask: “Who is doing the including?” And achieving diversity is not enough. Plantations were diverse; It’s a question of who holds the power. Another speaker said she prefers the term “anti-racist” to “diverse.”

Some things to think about.

feeling uncomfortable with privilege

by Tom Schuster, Director of the Beyond Coal Campaign.

My first White Privilege Conference was humbling and inspiring. Prior to the event I had attended several workshops on the subject, watched videos and read essays, and I entered the conference feeling like I knew what to expect. But I was not prepared for the emotional intensity. I left with a much deeper understanding of the struggles that people of color and other oppressed groups face on a day to day basis, and how I as a white middle-class cis-hetero male benefit invisibly on a daily basis and some ways in which I can use that privilege to help further justice. Here are just a few of my takeaways, some of which I am still working on processing:

First, the system that I navigate more or less successfully on a daily basis was designed by people like me, for people like me. This is not terribly surprising to learn, of course, but the ways in which it manifests are not always obvious. Many of the assumed norms of our everyday existence, such as the way we dress, speak, behave in meetings and other social gatherings, who and what is beautiful, are usually euro-centric and paternalistic, and therefore exclusive.

To be inclusive, we need to recognize these and adjust our expectations. It is not easy for me to articulate and I have much more to learn, but Jamila Lyiscott does a good job of illustrating a piece of this in an entertaining way in this TED video: <http://bit.ly/1gPgqIn>.

Second, we only grow if we step outside our comfort zone. The event was kicked off with a hip hop rendition of Nina Simone's "Please Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood," the first of many calls for us white folk to reach out to and build relationships with people of color, knowing full well that it will be hard at first since we will lack some of the common experiences, and we will undoubtedly embarrass ourselves at some point by being inadvertently offensive. But it is OK, because our intentions are good, and if we own it and learn from it, we will be a more inclusive, less segregated people. We can't not try just because we are afraid of messing up.

I learned another timely lesson about comfort when the signs on the bathrooms changed after the event's first day. Early on, at least one attendee commented to organizers that there were no gender-neutral bathroom options at the huge conference

space. Early in the morning of the second day, I went to use the restroom outside the main hall, only to find that the familiar male and female icons had been removed. Which one was I supposed to use? Did it matter? What if I had to think about those questions every single time? So I guessed. It had been the men's room, as there were urinals in there, but I was the only male and there were several other women present. It felt a little weird at first, I have to admit, but we all just went about our business. All of this got me thinking: what if the signs were still out there, and I was transgender and looked like I do, but my birth certificate legally compelled me to use the women's restroom? And what if some macho vigilante was waiting outside, itching to protect his girlfriend's honor? Which brings me to my final takeaway.

...if we own it and learn from it,
we will be a more inclusive, less
segregated people.

For people of color, transgender people and other oppressed groups, oppression is not a matter of protecting delicate sensibilities or someone's version of social order. It is a matter of personal safety, and too often, life and death. I was especially moved by the story of Yusef Salaam, one of the Central Park Five. He and four other

black teenagers were railroaded by NYC police and prosecutors for the rape and beating of a jogger in 1989. Before their trial, Donald Trump took out full page ads calling for their execution (seriously). They spent 13 years in prison before the real perpetrator was caught and convicted based on DNA evidence. I was also moved by the painful story of a local mother whose son was shot over a dozen times by Philadelphia police and who tearfully described how she was still fighting, after several years, to simply get the department to release basic information about the incident while struggling to keep the lights on and the fridge full.

As I heard these stories, I could understand why some people protest disruptively or even violently, and I do not blame them. They feel they can't work within the system, because the system never worked for them. As a member of a privileged group, who can only begin to comprehend their struggles, my place is not to critique their tactics or determine what outcomes they should be working toward. Instead, I need to humbly engage with them, find out what they want to achieve, and try to clear away some of the obstacles set up by my fellow white men so that they can achieve it.

celebrating our amazing stars

The 2016 Stargazing Awards dinner was held June 25th at Raccoon Creek State Park to honor Sierra Club members for their volunteer service. It was part of the featured activities at the Chapter's Annual Outing. This year the Chapter honored two volunteers with its Supernova Star award, which recognizes members who have demonstrated a lifetime of service and commitment to the Sierra Club. Also, each group selected one of its members for the Star Award in appreciation for his or her outstanding service to the group.

PHIL COLEMAN, CHAPTER SUPERNOVA STAR



For more than 35 years Phil Coleman has been a remarkable contributor to the Sierra Club activities here in Pennsylvania at both the

Chapter level.

In the 1980's, along with his wife Wyona, he was an active Executive Committee member of the short-lived Southwest PA Group. He was a keen outings leader with a particular interest in the Quebec Run area in Forbes State Forest on Chestnut Ridge.

Phil continued Wyona's fight against coal mining and became a board member of the Center for Coalfield Justice in Washington, PA. He has been extremely active at the Chapter level taking on a variety of responsibilities such as chair of the Budget

Committee, chair of the Personnel Committee, chair of the Fund Raising Committee, Political Chair, and Chapter Chair on two separate occasions.

For the past several years, Phil has co-edited the Chapter newsletter, *The Sylvania*. His contributions to *The Sylvania* have included his regular Coleman's Lantern column, which has addressed everything from nuclear power and conservation of energy to weapons of war and the beauty of observing starry nights paddling the Youghiogheny River.

In addition to those contributions to the Sierra Club at the Chapter level, he served on the Executive Committee of the Allegheny Group, devoted much of his time and energy to fighting unjust practices in the coalfields of Southwestern Pennsylvania, promoted the connection between environmental policies and electoral action and provided astute guidance to all of us who had the special opportunity work with him. For these many contributions to the Sierra Club over more than 35 years, we are proud to honor Phil Coleman for a 2016 Supernova Award.

PAT REILLY, CHAPTER SUPERNOVA STAR



Pat Reilly has been a member of the Sierra Club since 1985 and has played a critical leadership role in the Governor Pinchot (GVP) Group, in the PA

Chapter and the Harrisburg ICO. Long before he became a Sierra Club leader, Pat was Harrisburg's original "River Rat," winning numerous paddling competitions during successive Kipona celebrations on the Susquehanna River.

As a Sierra Club member, Pat put his love of paddling and the outdoors to good use. He served as PA Chapter Outings Chair for several years and led Chapter-level outings open to any Club member in PA. He also has been a primary leader for GVP's annual Susquehanna River Clean up since its inception. Pat skillfully led paddlers down the Susquehanna River collecting tons of trash in the process. Pat served on the Executive Committee to GVP in the mid-1990's. He was instrumental in fighting the proposed dam at Swatara State Park and the Harrisburg Hydroelectric Dam Project.

But perhaps Pat is best known for his work with the Harrisburg Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO) program. Pat was one of the original five leaders in Harrisburg ICO when it all began in 1996 and was a leader with the program for 20 years. Pat was instrumental in forming Harrisburg ICO's Canoe Corps, which trained people to compete in the Kipona Festival canoe races. Pat has also been the lead on organizing Greenbelt bike rides every spring where the kids do the full 20-mile loop.

Over the past 20 years, Pat has probably spent 300 days on outings with the ICO youth. Because of Pat, hundreds of city youth feel at home in the outdoors.

As a warm, caring leader and friend to the kids, Pat represents the best

characteristics of a Sierra Club leader. He is completely committed to helping young people, particularly urban bound youth, develop an appreciation and understanding of nature and the need to protect it. Pat's impact cannot be quantified merely by years and roles, but in relationships built with the kids he taught and molded to be future environmentalists.

JIM BUZBY, STAR AWARD FOR THE GOVERNOR PINCHOT (GVP) GROUP



Jim Buzby has been a member of the Sierra Club's GVP group for the past 25 years. In the most recent years, Jim has become involved in the Sierra Club's Victory Corps, which seeks to support endorsed candidates to secure victories in their campaigns, as well as being a member of the GVP Executive Committee.

GWEN CHUTE, STAR AWARD FOR THE ALLEGHENY (ALG) GROUP



Gwen Chute has been an exceptionally active volunteer with the ALG Group for more than six years. Her intellect, organizational skills, passion and willingness to go the extra mile have made her a joy to work with and a remarkable asset. Gwen has served as the main liaison to the Protect Our Parks (POP) organization, which seeks to prevent fracking in Allegheny County. Gwen has met with local and state officials to educate, inform and lobby for various environmental and social

justice issues. Gwen has served on the ALG Executive Committee for five years and has been the Vice Chair since 2012.

DAVE HEMBERGER, STAR AWARD FOR THE KITTATINNY (KIT) GROUP



Dave has been a long-time supporter of the KIT Group's fundraising efforts, social and Earth Day affairs. Once Dave became active with the group, he quickly

stepped up to the plate to become not only the group Political Chair but also the Chapter Political Chair. He faithfully coordinates the political endorsement procedures and supports the group and Chapter's political nominees. Dave canvasses for our local endorsed candidates and keeps up with the political scene, not only in Pennsylvania but also the nation. The KIT Group can always count on Dave to send out upcoming event announcements, coordinate our bird walks and write letters to the editor on current environmental issues.

CHARLES ISAACS, STAR AWARD FOR THE SOUTHEASTERN (SPG) GROUP



Charlie, a research tech at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, is an increasingly active contributor to the volunteer efforts in the Philadelphia area, working with the SPG Group and Beyond Coal Campaign projects.

Charlie has helped the SPG Group connect with more college students of the Philadelphia area and has helped them amplify their message using digital/social media and creative artwork. His contributions to the World Asthma Day event, which included a march and screening of the documentary, Years of Living Dangerously, helped make the event a huge success. As this year's Star, the SPG Group hopes Charlie will continue to explore ways that he can act on his aspiration to fight against polluters and promote climate justice through volunteer activism with the Sierra Club.

RON JOHNSON, STAR AWARD FOR THE MOSHANNON (MSH) GROUP



Since Ron was elected to the MSH Group Executive Committee in 2004, he has served as Conservation Chair, Treasurer and Coordinator for the Banff Film

Festival. He serves the community by arranging film showings at various venues and has promoted the group's growth by offering his cabin at Black Moshannon for winter parties. Ron coordinates and promotes river clean ups with other groups and conducts the group in multiple discussions to set goals and objectives. Ron attended the Marcellus Summit, worked to inoculate hemlocks in Bear Meadows, has led day and overnight outings, and has written letters to the editor on various topics. Ron's dedication to the MSH Group and to all the directives of the Sierra Club to explore, enjoy and protect the natural environment makes him a bright star in the Moshannon constellation.

MAX PEASTER, ESQ., STAR AWARD FOR THE LAKE ERIE (LKE) GROUP



Max Peaster is a long-time activist with the LKE Group. For the past 20 years the group is lucky to have Max's involvement. He has

been on the Executive Committee for ten consecutive terms and has been a long-serving treasurer. Max is in charge of the Erie County Law Library, which makes him the "legal beagle" for the group. The group can always count on Max to help out when help is needed. He is most deserving of this award.

PAUL SHAW, STAR AWARD FOR THE OTZINACHSON (OTZ) GROUP



As a land use planner for the Susquehanna Economic Development Association – Council of Government (SEDA COG), Paul surveyed and studied the wild, natural

areas of Central Pennsylvania. Paul has long been active in outings and trail issues, and has been the Outings and Hiking Coordinator for the OTZ Group for over ten years. In 2006, he was appointed as the first Executive Director of the Keystone Trails Association and was elected to its Board of Directors in 2009. He currently serves as its vice president. His love of the outdoors led him to start his own business, Treks and Trails International, through which he leads hikes globally. The OTZ Group thanks Paul for his work to provide a varied hiking schedule for its members.

DR. ANDREW UNGER, STAR AWARD FOR THE LEHIGH VALLEY (LHV) GROUP



Dr. Unger is chief of Pediatrics and Neonatology at Sacred Heart Hospital, Allentown, and a board certified pediatrician and neonatologist. He has been working dili-

gently with state health officials and testing experts to begin testing newborn children in Pennsylvania for benzene and other fracking chemicals and for lead poisoning. He was a featured speaker at a community forum on lead pollution hosted by the LVG Group in Bethlehem in April 2016. Dr. Unger also has been active in the group's effort to encourage community support for the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Lehigh River to connect the Delaware and Lehigh Canal Towpath Trail and the South Bethlehem's Greenway Trail. Dr. Unger, who was raised in Brooklyn, now lives with his family in Bethlehem Township, Northampton County.

Chapter Chair Adds her Thanks to Volunteers

By Veronica Coptis, Chapter Chair

I thank the many volunteers across our Chapter who help the Sierra Club fight for climate and environmental justice in Pennsylvania. Our volunteers are so humble but it is crucial to show our appreciation for them because without our dedicated volunteers we could not have the reputation we have across the state.

Being a grassroots, volunteer-led organization is what makes us unique in the environmental movement and it is also what makes us strong. Without guidance from our volunteers, we would not have the ability to truly represent the communities impacted by fossil fuel extraction and infrastructure while also working to shift advocacy at the Capitol to better represent the people.

As a newly elected chair of the Chapter, I have been so impressed by the work of our groups and the volunteers that run them across the Commonwealth. It may seem like not much is happening in terms of seeing big wins but we are fighting for a livable wage, working to stop fracked gas pipelines, and keeping fossil fuels in the ground to protect our climate.

Although we have a huge road ahead of us – to create a Commonwealth that is working for the people – I believe we can get there. The Chapter has taken great strides towards diversity, equity and inclusion. Continuing this work will make our Chapter grow into a more inclusive and diverse body of people growing our power allowing us to win on all of our issues. With members like all of you, we can do it.



[obituaries]

Bruce Sundquist. scientist, outings leader, publisher, and conservationist, 1936 - 2016



In the early morning of April 15, 2016 Bruce Sundquist died quietly in his bed at the age of 79, a fitting end for a modest and peaceful man.

Immediately after obtaining his Ph.D. from Illinois Inst. of Technology in 1960 Bruce Sundquist accepted a job at U.S. Steel's research laboratory in Monroeville, PA. The young man from Minnesota soon enjoyed hiking in the Appalachian Mountains and when he joined the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy he began a long career of voluntary conservationism. When the Allegheny Group of the Sierra Club was formed in 1970 Bruce was one of its first members, becoming a regular outings leader and eventually chair of the Outings Committee. In the late 70s he joined Sam Hays and Dick Pratt as they explored areas on Allegheny National Forest for potential inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System, leading to designation of the Hickory Creek Wilderness Area in 1984. In West Virginia he was

a regular visitor to the Dolly Sods area, working towards designation of that unique spot as a federal wilderness area in 1975.

To help the public enjoy and protect the natural areas around Pittsburgh, Bruce began the production of guides, first with the American Youth Hostels of Pittsburgh, and then with the Allegheny Group and the Keystone Trails Association. He organized volunteers to scout and map the trail systems in various areas and over a period of thirty years he authored or co-authored a series of guides. He started in 1974 with *Allegheny National Forest Hiking Guide*, followed by *Hiker's Guide to Laurel Highlands Trail*, *Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide*, *Ski-Touring in Western Pennsylvania*, *Hiking Guide to Western Pennsylvania*, *Canoeing Guide to Western Pennsylvania*, and *Laurel Highlands Hiking Guide* (sixth edition Part 2, 2004).

Initially Bruce printed the guides using a mimeographing machine in his base-

ment. And he used that same machine to print the early editions of the Allegheny Group's newsletter. His home was a combination office and storehouse.

Bruce was a year-round outdoorsman. For many years he led the annual January cross-country skiing trip to West Virginia, and he introduced to Sierra Club members the joy of tube floating on the Youghiogheny.

When he retired from Westinghouse's Blairsville lab in 1991 Bruce was able to devote more of his scientific training to the topic that had attracted his interest in the mid-eighties - the Earth's carrying capacity. The scope of this interest is reflected in the list of his writings at the Website he created at <http://www.bsundquist.civilizationsfuture.com>. Not only did he cover the topics of the degradation of soils and crop lands, forests, gaming lands and fisheries, but he did research on globalization and Third World issues. Population growth was a major concern, and as recently as 2008 he wrote a paper titled "Could Family Planning Cure Terrorism".

In addition to a long tenure as chair of the Allegheny Group's Outings program, Bruce was for some years chair of the Conservation Committee and in 1995 and 1996 he was Group Chair.

It is not often that a person like Bruce Sundquist comes along, but when they do, the world is better for it.

As a tribute to Bruce, please join the Memorial Hike in Bruce's Honor, Saturday, August 20, 2016, in Quebec Run Wild Area -- one of Bruce's favorite hang outs. The hike will probably start out at the lowest parking lot, at Mill Run Trail.

For details, email Monika Dalrymple, med.43@hotmail.com

friends say good bye to Bill Welch, 1940 -2016



Long-time Sierra Club member Bill Welch, 75, died July 10th at his home in Millcreek Township, a suburb of Erie. His friends gathered to celebrate his life on the Presque Isle Peninsula, where Welch spent some

of his best moments.

Chapter Director Joanne Kilgour said Welch had a “particular passion” for Lake Erie and the Presque Isle Peninsula. “When I made my first trip up to meet the Lake Erie Group, Bill took us on a detailed tour of Presque Isle, sharing his passion for the birds and the landscape. It is one of my fondest memories as Chapter Director and I have no doubt that many of you have similar stories of shared experiences or shared work with Bill.”

Bill was born on September 11, 1940, and was a graduate of McDowell High School and Penn State University. He worked as an environmental consultant. He was a member of the Lake Erie Group’s Executive Committee and a true advocate for the environment.

Welch was a self-appointed guardian of his beloved Presque Isle and was committed to making sure that it would be there for many generations to come.

farewell Jerry Balter

by Wendi Taylor



With sadness, I note the passing of attorney Jerry Balter, who taught me about environmental racism, how to attack an issue, and what it felt like to win.

Balter, 94, spent 28 years as an attorney for the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia.

”His legacy is better health in many places and communities and individuals inspired by a vision of justice because Jerry showed how it could be done,” said one of his colleagues.

I met Jerry Balter when the Greater

Harrisburg Area NAACP was fighting a medical waste plant, which was proposed to be built next to a public housing neighborhood in Harrisburg. We were told “It is a done deal,” by local officials and there was nothing we could do to stop it. Then Jerry Balter took the case. He saw all the signs of environmental racism and when the dust had settled, the deal had been un-done. Today there is no medical waste plant in Harrisburg.

Balter was a no-nonsense ally. If he was on the case, we had better be prepared to work. He told us what he wanted and gave us a deadline to deliver. And when we won, we knew we had worked hard for it, too.

In announcing his passing, the Law Center said, “Jerry started at the Public Interest Law Center in Philadelphia. 1978 at age 54, shortly after he graduated from Rutgers. He was originally hired to work on an Environmental Protection Agency funded project analyzing cancer statistics

for geographic abnormalities. His first major project was drafting and shepherding through to passage a Philadelphia City “Right To Know” ordinance so the public and city safety officials could know what chemicals were being used or stored by businesses in the City. It was the first such ordinance in the country.”

Balter was “an inspiration about what activism, organizing, and optimism could accomplish.”

Farewell, my friend.

call for at-large delegates

by Jack Miller

The Nominating Committee wants to know who you think is qualified to represent you on the Sierra Club – Pennsylvania Chapter Executive Committee? Each year the statewide membership of the Sierra Club elects three members as delegates to the Chapter Executive Committee for two-year terms. These delegates, along with representatives from each group, comprise the governing body of the Pennsylvania Chapter. Generally, At-Large Delegates have a broad interest and/or knowledge of the activities of the Club throughout the state.

Nominations are now being sought for these three important At-Large Delegate positions. Members are encouraged to submit the names of people (including yourself) to the Nominating Committee. Submit the names and contact information of people you want to be considered by the Nominating Committee as nominees no later than August 15, 2016.

Remember to look for the official ballot in the Fall edition of The Sylvanian.

Further, members who are not officially nominated by the Nominating Committee can be added to the election ballot for At-Large Delegates through a simple, written petition process. A valid petition consists of the name, address and membership number of the petition candidate, along with a statement that the candidate has given approval for the petition and intends to serve if elected. A telephone number and e-mail address of the candidate are also requested. Members signing petitions must include their printed membership name and address, the date and a legible signature. The telephone number, e-mail address and membership number of members signing the petition are also requested in order to verify current membership. Both members of a joint membership may sign. A minimum of fifteen (15) valid signatures is required on a petition. Because some signers may have unknowingly let their membership lapse, a greater number of signatures is recommended.

Petition candidate statements and completed petitions must be received by the Nominating Committee no later than August 31, 2016. (See the address below.) Ballot candidates for At-Large Delegates should prepare a written statement highlighting their qualifications to serve as delegates, which will appear in the fall edition of The Sylvanian. Statements are limited to 200 words and should be e-mailed to the Nominating Committee by September 5, 2016. Petitions and petitioners' statements should be mailed to the Nominating Committee by the U.S. Postal Service or a commercial over-night delivery service at the following address: Chapter Nominating Committee; Jack miller; 130 Delong road; Middleburg Pa 17842-8182.

In addition, the nominating Committee will gladly accept recommendations for various posts and volunteer positions. Please contact Jack Miller at: jmiller1018@yahoo.com

answers to crossword puzzle

(from page 24)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Across | 16 Matt Lipton |
| 1 Veronica Copits | 17 Andy Enger |
| 4 Wendi Taylor | 18 Paul Shaw |
| 6 Hemberger | Down |
| 7 Peaster | 2 Charles Isaacs |
| 9 David Kagan | 3 Gwen Chute |
| 13 Sue Edwards | 5 Tom Au |
| 14 Johnson | 8 Sunquist |
| 15 Pat Reilly | 10 Kasserman |
| | 11 Bill Welch |
| | 12 Jim Buzby |

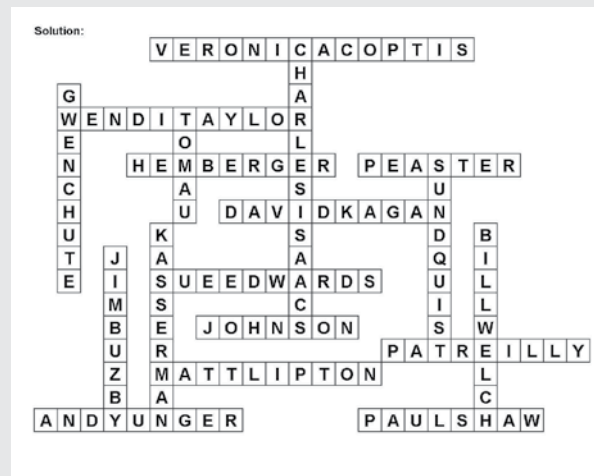


photo contest: announcing our winners!

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Explore and Enjoy Photo Contest!

The Sierra Club received over 50 submissions from across the state and they were reviewed on the basis of subject, originality, technical excellence, and composition.

The winning photos will be professionally framed for the Sierra Club Office, 225 Market Street, Harrisburg.

The full gallery of photos can be viewed online at pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/photocontest



1st Place

Michael Tushek

Gettysburg, PA

A Plethora of Snow Geese - Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Stevens



2nd Place

Brooke Plevinsky

Harrisburg, PA

Dead Flowers - Harrisburg



3rd Place

Tarea Roach-Pritchett

Easton, PA

Boulder Field in Fall - Hickory Run
State Park, White Haven

[the gadfly]

global heating? well, *do* something

by Mort Malkin

The weather devils have been escaping from Pandora's Box, and the climate feedback loops are becoming self-sustaining chain reactions. But, waiting at the bottom of Pandora's Box we still have Hope. Can we reverse the death spiral that has already brought us: heat waves and wildfires, droughts, superstorms, and floods? Perhaps ... if we 1) immediately and sharply reduce the amount of greenhouse gases entering the thin atmospheric envelope of the Earth and 2) rapidly increase the sequestration of carbon and methane in such natural storehouses as forests and coastal wetlands.

In the US it's not hard to identify the sources of the principal greenhouse gases, carbon dioxide and methane: 1) the coal and gas fired power plants and 2) the cars, trucks, planes, and ships that transport our goods and us around. We must convince our government to close the coal burning plants and stop drilling for oil and "natural" gas. Wind farms can be installed in a matter of months. Solar panels take even less time. Battery technology has improved so much that electric vehicles have a carbon footprint almost as small as rickshaws. Government fleets of cars can certainly be all electric. Light rail lines can connect nearby cities and suburbs. Bicycle lanes and walking paths (sidewalks) would be epic. Then, governments can place slow speed water turbines in rivers and tidal estuaries. On oceans, we can establish a merchant marine fleet of high tech sailing vessels carrying American made exports. We'll call them Clipper Ships.

Call the roof top solar panels, wind mills, and bicycles "distributed generation" — that sounds official and accredited.

TEN MORE THINGS WE CAN DO INDIVIDUALLY AND AS THE PEOPLE:

- 1, 2, and 3. Call, mail, and visit our elected representatives (supposedly, public servants), and hold their feet to the fire.
4. Reduce, Reuse, Repair, and Recycle— in that order.
5. Plant trees in forests, parks, and

8. Eliminate monocrop farming, which invariably requires heavy pesticide/herbicide use. Return to farming that respects earthworms and honeybees. Call it "organic farming."

9. Eat much less beef. Cattle produce massive amounts of methane. The 100 million cattle in the US pass 5.5 metric tons of methane per year.

10. Abolish war. War produces plenty of heat and tons of CO2 from all the shells and bombs and missiles that explode. Depleted uranium shells, most egregious, explode at 4,000 to 5,000° F. Of the

tanks and planes and warships that merely go on patrol, the Abrams tank is the most efficient at 8 gallons per mile. Just turning an aircraft carrier around? Don't ask.

Can we reverse the death spiral that has already brought us: *heat waves and wildfires, droughts, superstorms, and floods?*

backyards. Trees are geniuses at capturing carbon from the atmosphere and storing it as wood and maple syrup. We haven't figured that out yet. No, lawns don't count for carbon storage; they are little better than Astroturf.

6. Keep and protect coastal wetlands, salt marshes and mangroves. An acre of mangrove captures three times as much carbon as an acre of tropical forest. Require the Army Corps of Engineers to issue an environmental impact statement before dredging rivers or estuaries.

7. Charge a fee (not a "tax") for emitting greenhouse gases: diesel generators and pumps, fossil fuel power plants, fitness centers where heavy lifting causes heavy breathing ...

What is really efficient is statecraft: diplomacy, negotiation, mediation, patience, persistence, and creativity. No matter how hot tempered the disputants are, only metaphorical heat results. If a satirist is among the "honest brokers," the worst would be a little carbon dioxide from a fit of laughing.

Nature has provided us with more energy than we can use, from: sun, wind, rivers, tides, waves, and geothermal. The time to use them is immediately, if not yesterday. Good planets are hard to find.

environmental group protects youghiogheny river gorge from strip mining

by *Krissy Kasserman, Youghiogheny Riverkeeper*

After a nearly ten-year battle to protect the Youghiogheny River Gorge from strip mining, the Mountain Watershed Association (MWA) has finally declared victory. Using little-known provisions of both state and local laws, the MWA successfully defended this important and sensitive area from mining and represents a huge victory for the organization, the community and for the river.

Since 2007, the Mountain Watershed Association, home of the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper, has opposed Amerikohl Mining's proposed Curry Mine along the Yough in Dunbar Township, Fayette County. This strip mine, which was originally projected to include nearly 600 acres, posed an immediate threat to water quality, drinking water supplies, recreation and the wild and remote nature of the Yough River gorge. It was ill-conceived from the beginning—located less than a thousand feet from the Youghiogheny River and Great Allegheny Passage, surrounded on all sides by public lands including Ohiopyle State Park and high quality waters, and in a section of the Yough River gorge used heavily for recreation.

For this project Amerikohl was required to obtain zoning approval from Fayette County and a mining permit from the Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP). Amerikohl first attempted to gain zoning approval in 2009. Its request was denied largely as a result of the Mountain Watershed's opposition; despite its appeals all the way to the Commonwealth Court the zoning was not approved. Also in 2009, Amerikohl applied for its mining permit. PA DEP approved that permit in 2011. In 2012, Amerikohl again applied for zoning approval. This time Fayette County approved its special exception petition. However, mining did not immediately commence on the site, likely due to declines in the coal market between 2007 and 2012, which bought the Watershed Association valuable time to protect the property.

In 2012, the PADEP permit for the proposed Curry mine was cancelled because it had not been acted upon—a little known provision in Pennsylvania's mining regulations. It states mining permits must be activated within three years. While this was good news, the association was not satisfied because the requisite zoning exception still existed and that at any time Amerikohl could reapply to DEP and gain the permit to then begin mining the site.

On November 25, 2015, the Mountain Watershed Association filed with the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas a

motion to dismiss the special exception currently in place for Amerikohl's proposed Curry mine. According to the Fayette County Zoning Ordinance, the special exception originally granted to Amerikohl expired. Generally, the ordinance provides that the holder of a special exception must act upon the special exception within a year of obtaining it, and must complete the special exception use within a year of acting upon it.

While this provision in the zoning code had never before been challenged, Judge Stephen Leskinen of the Fayette County Court of Common Pleas agreed with the association, and finally, on April 19, 2016, the land use appeal was granted and the special exception for the proposed Curry Mine was declared void!

At this point, Amerikohl has neither a DEP permit nor a zoning special exception to mine the proposed Curry site—meaning it would have to reapply to both the Department of Environmental Protection and the Fayette County Zoning Hearing Board in order to mine the property.

In a related matter, MWA has also filed a friend of the court brief in Amerikohl's appeal before the federal Interior Board of Land Appeals relating to alleged unauthorized logging that took place on the Curry site in 2009 and again in 2012. The MWA sided with the federal Office of Surface Mining, which has argued that timbering at the site should have been conducted in compliance with the mining permit, which had been issued for the site.

This issue was elevated to the federal level after MWA's complaints to PADEP regarding extensive erosion and sedimentation on the site from logging went unaddressed. PADEP asserted that since mining had not begun, these logging activities, likely conducted in preparation for mining, were not considered "mining activities" and thus PADEP had no jurisdiction. This is clearly in conflict with federal mining regulations. After MWA engaged the federal Office of Surface Mining, it swiftly enforced the law through a series of orders requiring site stabilization and a cessation of logging activities.

Amerikohl's subsequent appeals brought the issue before the Interior Board of Land Appeals. A decision is still pending but could impact the way logging on permitted mine sites is regulated statewide.

The Mountain Watershed Association is the home of the Youghiogheny Riverkeeper.

2016 Wyona Coleman Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Matthew

Lipton who was awarded the Wyona Coleman Scholarship for the third year in a row. The scholarship is designed to encourage young people to pursue careers that will help protect the environment.

Matthew of Yardley is a student at the University of Delaware, majoring in Environmental Science, whose instructor described him as a student with a “passion for protecting and preserving our environment.” This year Matt traveled to the Everglades in Florida to study one of the world’s most unique ecosystems. “While riding through the mangroves,” Matt said he realized “the need for us to save these beautiful and unique ecosystems no matter how hard it might be.”

As he moves forward in his education, Matt said he realizes more and more that “the environment is a vital part of our society and needs to be preserved for generations to come.”

Matt is also active in his church where the youth pastor said he is community server and a leader in all parts of his life.

The scholarship fund was established in 2006 by contributions made to the Sierra Club in memory of Wyona Coleman, who died in December 2005. Ms. Coleman was a long-time environmental activist, who worked for many years on issues related to surface and deep coal mining, and was instrumental in the passage of state and federal laws dealing with reclamation, mine subsidence and water replacement. She worked as a journalist, a newspaper editor and was for many years a librarian at the public library near her home in West Brownsville, Pa.

The scholarship is given to Pennsylvania students that are majoring in an environmental related field, who demonstrate service to the community, a dedication to protecting the environment, and financial need. Each scholarship is \$1,000.



*Matthew Lipton
Three-time Scholarship winner*

[connect with your sierra club group]

Chapter Executive Committee

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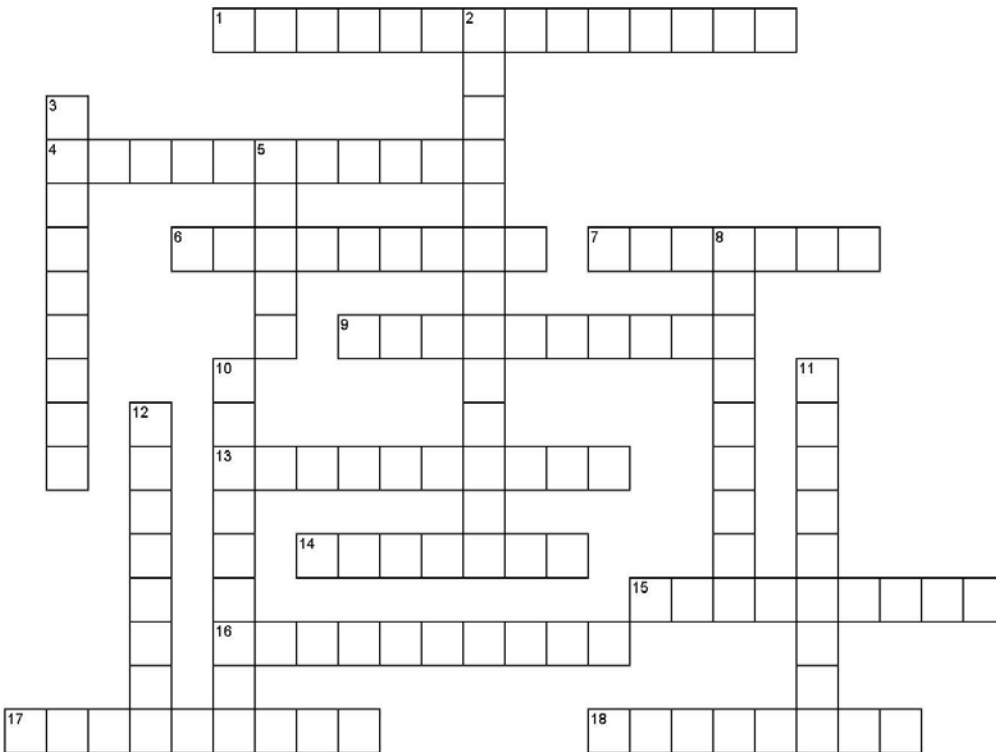


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[summer crossword]



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Across

- 1 Chapter Chair
- 4 Former Chapter Chair
- 6 Kittatinny Fundraiser
- 7 Lake Erie Treasurer
- 9 Pine Creek Trail Godfather
- 13 Diversity Chair
- 14 Moshannon Conservation Chair
- 15 Inspiring Connections Outdoors
- 16 Scholarship Winner
- 17 Lehigh Valley Leader
- 18 Otzinnachson Hiker

Down

- 2 Southeastern Leader
- 3 Allegheny Group Leader
- 5 Conservation Chair
- 8 Allegheny Group Outings leader
- 10 Youghiogheny River Keeper
- 11 Erie Group Leader
- 12 Pinchot Political leader

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