

Mid-Hudson
Sierra Club
P.O. Box 1012
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Fresh Air



The Quarterly Newsletter of the Atlantic Chapter Mid-Hudson Group

Fall 2011 Vol.43 Issue 3

Website: : <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson>

ANNUAL TAG SALE

Saturday, September 17 – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Rain Date: Sunday September 18 – 9:00 am– 3:00 pm

Mulligan's Irish House

2146 New Hackensack Rd, Poughkeepsie, 12603

It's our annual fund-raiser!

Calling all Sierrans! Donate, Promote, Purchase, Volunteer

DONATE: Bring your donations to Mulligans on Friday, September 16 between 1 – 6 pm (rain or shine), or early on the day of the sale.

We are looking for donations of books, CD's, toys with all the parts, hiking/camping equipment (including Jackets, and ski boots, hiking accessories) , sporting goods with some play left in them, tools, antiques, small furniture, kitchen items, glassware, pictures, camera equipment, etc., in good condition. All electronics must be in good working order.

We do not wish to sell clothing or shoes. Please donate elsewhere.

Can't Make it to the Sale/Drop-Off? Let us know. We have some volunteers who are willing to pick up goods, or they can be dropped off early if need be.

PROMOTE: Let your friends and family know about the sale. We'll have a poster on our website soon that you can download, print, and post.

PURCHASE: Come to the sale and find great buys for yourself and others. The benefits are many – low prices, great selection, recycling goods, and helping your local Sierra club meet challenges!

VOLUNTEER: We can use your help! Can you spare 3 hours or more? Let us know. Help needed on Friday (September 16) and Saturday (September 17). To volunteer, or for further information about donating or anything else about the sale, contact David Friedman, Tag Sale Chair, or Marie Caruso, Volunteer Coordinator (see below).

DAY OF SALE Announcements: Any rain announcements or special pre-sale announcements will be on our tag sale hotline: Call 845-255-2635 for information.

Phone: 845-255-2635 (Barner Books) or
E-mail: Friedman_David@msn.com
Cell: 845-701-6229 (calls or text)

Marie Caruso at
mariehv@verizon.net
845-452-9086



Our tag sale is the major fundraiser for the Mid-Hudson Group.
Your contribution helps us protect our local environment.
* Rain Date: Sunday, September 18
Further Details about the sale are inside "Fresh Air"

Volunteer: Call 845-701-6229

Mulligans Irish House 2186 New Hackensack Rd. Poughkeepsie, NY

DONATION DROP OFF Friday September 16 12pm - 6 pm

DAY OF SALE* Saturday September 17 9 am - 3 pm

ANNUAL TAG SALE

SIERRA CLUB

CHAIR'S CORNER Joanne Steele

The Atlantic Chapter, of which your Mid-Hudson Group is one-eleventh part, has called for an outright ban on hydrofracking (HF) in New York. Governor Cuomo and our DEC have not -- yet. We are asking you to contact (once is not enough!) the Governor (www.ny.gov) in support of our stand: Ban Hydrofracking now! He pushed our NYS DEC to report to him in July on HF, which they did preliminarily at that time. The DEC expects to issue its completed report by the end of August. After this report (called a Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement, or SGEIS) is released, the DEC will hold a comment period and hearings. We are demanding that the comment period be 180 days instead of the usual 60 and that the hearings be held all around New York State, and not just in the areas where the business interests lie. It's our job to contact the DEC to make those demands (search NYS Department of Environmental Conservation at www.dec.ny.gov). We're counting on you members to do your job.

Further, concerning all our jobs, your Executive Committee members know that in our six-county bailiwick there are housing and other developments happening, although we may not know what they are and, more importantly, your thinking and possible concerns about them. If you are concerned, please let your Ex-Com know (www.newyork.sierraclub.org/midhudson). We can help you by directing you to sources, but you must be willing to pick up the task itself, although we can help you organize that, too, with help from **Marie Caruso**, your new Volunteer Coordinator.

We welcome to your Ex-Com, **Dr. Andi Weiss-Bartczak**. She is a toxicologist and independent science consultant and educator as well as a long-time activist. With Andi's appointment your Ex-Com has its full complement of nine members for now. **Even so, however, December is the time of our annual election to the Ex-Com. If any member wants to run, please let me know right away!** Please contact me at 845-338-0300 or sierraclubjoanne@gmail.com ASAP, but no later than Oct. 1.

I've been presenting plenty of literature about HF and showing the academy-award nominated documentary, "Gasland", in a roughly 30-mile radius of Kingston. If you have a venue please call me to discuss it. Remember, Gaia's watching and future generations are counting on us to preserve this gorgeous Earth! It's in our hands.

PROGRAM CORNER

Our Speaker Socials this Fall focus on global environmental problems and their solutions. Our meeting place is the upstairs community room at the **Hudson River Rowing Association boathouse, 270 N. Water St., Poughkeepsie** (see www.hudsonriverrowing.org for directions). Come early to enjoy the view from the balcony, and bring friends--our meetings are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

October 19 (Wednesday) 7 PM: Six Crises: A Synopsis of Earth's Systemic, Human-Caused Environmental Calamities, presented by **John S. Keith**

This presentation will provide a comprehensive overview of all the environmental crises facing our planet, grouped into six broad categories: ocean health; deforestation/desertification; global warming; fresh water; invasive species; and toxic chemicals/heavy metals. The global geographic dimension of the issues and impact on land, water and the atmosphere will be reviewed, illustrated by pictures from Mr. Keith's extensive travels throughout the world. The multiple and complex interconnections between the six crises will be discussed, as will the root causes and likely long-term consequences. This presentation should be of interest to those who wish to gain a truly global perspective on environmental issues.

John Keith is an environmental executive and engineer with over 35 years experience in industry, government and international NGOs. He has worked, throughout the world, on many types of environmental problems relating to ecological health and environmental degradation. In May, 2011, he became Director of Operations for the Blacksmith Institute, an NGO whose mission is to remediate polluted industrial sites in the developing world.

November 16 (Wednesday) 7 PM: The Role of Environmental NGOs in the Struggle for Environmental Justice presented by **Frank Morris**

This presentation will focus on how the Sierra Club, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Nature Conservancy, and the many other national and international ecologic Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), representing millions of members worldwide, need to:

1. Collectively work together to form a unifying ecologic perspective,
2. Communicate that perspective to their membership, and
3. Through the empowered membership, through advocacy and investment, build the modern, post carbon/nuke non-polluting economic infrastructure necessary to sustain a planet trending toward 9 billion persons.

This program should be of interest to those who wish to explore how to work effectively with other environmental NGO's as well as those interested in ecologic investing.

Frank Morris, a graduate of SUNY Binghamton, has been a consistent renewable energy advocate since the first Gulf war. Frank is presently a member of the executive committee of the NYS (Atlantic Chapter) Sierra Club. He is founder of the NYS Investment Advisory, Ecologic Advisors, and has trademarked the Earth Index of public companies that provide solutions to environmental pollution.

CONSERVATION CORNER Marie Caruso

THANKS ARE DUE to the many people from a variety of professions who spoke at the public hearing and/or submitted written comments exposing the numerous deficiencies in Hudson River Valley Resorts' highly flawed DEIS for Williams Lake. A particular thanks is due to local Sierran **John S. Keith**, who put his 35 years' engineering experience to work on behalf of Sierra in reviewing several sections of the DEIS--particularly those pertaining to water. (Also take note of the exciting program Mr. Keith will present to us in October).

Mr. Keith did a water demand analysis which was utilized by our consulting hydrologist, **Paul Rubin** (another Sierran), to prove that the developer's water demand calculation was unrealistically low. Rubin, who submitted extensive comments on behalf of both the Sierra Club and Save the Lakes, Keith, and another hydrologist from Rosendale, **James Gatherer**, all raised substantial doubts about whether there is sufficient water for the proposed project. Substantive comments exposing problems with the DEIS were also submitted by Sierrans **Andi Weiss Bartczak, Ph.D.** and **Peter Fiorentino**, other members of **Save the Lakes**, the **Shawangunk Ridge Biodiversity Partnership**, and myself. All the substantive comments must be addressed by the developer in a Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Even though the public comment period on the DEIS is over, it's not too late to **contact your public officials and write letters to the editor** expressing your concerns about inappropriate development in this highly sensitive, biologically significant area. For more information about this site's extraordinary features and the impacts of the proposed project, check out our Group website, visit www.savethelakes.us, or contact me at mariehv@verizon.net or 845-452-9086.

Outings News

Andy Moss

We had a number of wonderful outings during the past few months. The most recent was a bike ride on the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail from New Paltz to Rosendale. The ride was led by **Lily Lewis** our new provisional Leader who did a fantastic job of organizing and leading the ride. The weather was great and we enjoyed a relaxing lunch at the Twisted Foods cafe in Rosendale. On July 23rd, I led a hike to Castle Point at Minnewaska State Park. Although hot, the wooded Mossy Glen trail was very comfortable. We began to feel the heat as we climbed up to the open Pitch Pine barrens on the way to the exposed cliffs of Castle Point. What a view! It was hot, but breezy, and all the hikers agreed that it was an enjoyable day.

On July 15th I led a bike ride over the Walkway Over the Hudson and the Mid Hudson bridge. We rode the rail trail from Highland to the Walkway, and then through Poughkeepsie to the Mid Hudson Bridge. The ride was easy with great river views.

June 10th saw a few adventurous hikers join me on a trip up to one of the Catskill Mountain high peaks: Panther Mountain. The journey passed through Giant Ledges, a section of trail which offers many great views of the surrounding mountains and valleys. This is one of 35 peaks over 3500 feet in the Catskills.

I am planning new outings of varying difficulty that I hope will entice you to join me. I welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact me at andy@hvi.net or call me evenings at 845-336-5446.

Don't forget to sign up online to be informed about future outings: <http://meetup.com/sierraclubny>. You will be notified automatically about new outings, and you can view photos of past events.

MOVING PLANET (350.Org) – SAVE THE DATE

by Fred Doneit

On Saturday September 24, the advocacy organization 350.org will hold demonstrations around the world to call for government action to reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and to demand investment in developing the infrastructure to make use of alternative energy sources. One local effort is being organized by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County, under the name "Get Moving Dutchess." The demonstration will take place on the Walkway, and by use of the Dutchess rail trails - the idea is for participants to use feet, bikes, roller blade, etc. propulsion to demonstrate solidarity with the global theme, called "Moving Planet." CCEDC will have research-based information at the Poughkeepsie entrance to the Walkway from 8:30 - 12:30 p.m. At 11:00 a.m. there will be a group picture at the middle of the Walkway over the Hudson.

The global fossil fuel industry is polluting our oceans, our land, our communities, and our air. It's corrupting our politics with over \$600 billion in subsidies globally, and hundreds of millions in campaign contributions in the USA in the last ten years. And looming largest, the continued burning of coal, oil, and natural gas is what will tip climate change into climate catastrophe - getting off petroleum products, used in all phases of our modern industrial society, is the main thing we need to do to reduce the CO2 concentration in our atmosphere to 350 ppm, the sustainable safe level.

MH Sierra members are encouraged to join in this event, either individually, or as a participating organization. Plans are still unfolding, and in past years there have been other local events on both sides of the river. To keep posted, go to www.350.org or the Co-Op Extension website at www.ccedutchess.org.