

Fourth Annual Fall Festival The Return of Jim Stoltz's *Forever Wild* 7 PM Saturday October 25, at Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church*

Those of you lucky enough to attend our 2nd Annual Fall Festival will easily remember the masterful mix of original song, commentary, and stunning photography Jim Stoltz presented. "My message is about the celebration of the wilderness. I try to share the magic of the wild that most of us have lost by not observing the natural world." The result is a powerful program sharing the magic and inspiration of the wild.

Jim returns on Saturday, October 25 in a benefit concert for our 4th Annual Fall Festival. The power of Jim's images, his easy-going Big Sky humor, and his mastery of the guitar will inspire the hopeful, convert the skeptical, and just plain entertain everyone.

"Walkin' Jim" has hiked nearly 25,000 miles of North America's last wild places – much of it unprotected. His passion about preserving America's last wild places, combined with his masterful singing and song-writing talents, are two reasons this show has been touring since 1986. According to the LA Times, "Stoltz manages to convey his message without preaching."

In this year's show he will be sharing images and songs from the Utah wildlands, the Northern Rockies, the Pacific Crest Trail from Mexico to Canada, and a Yellowstone to Yukon walk. Those who saw him two years ago can testify to the pleasure of Jim's warm, booming

voice and his keen guitar playing.

We expect many who saw him in 2001 will want to see him again, but hopefully there will also be room for those new to Jim's show. Seating is limited, so please get your tickets early.

***Location:** Twelve Corners Presbyterian Church, 1200 South Winton Rd., Rochester.



Time: Doors open at 7:00, and the show starts at 7:30. Come early for refreshments and to get a good seat. We'll also have our popular Sierra Club calendars available, as well as Jim's CDs.

Tickets: \$25 in advance for adults, \$20 for children under 12. \$30 day of show. Tickets may be purchased at the Abundance Coop, 62

Marshall St., Lori's Natural Foods, or from members of the ExCom. (If you would like to support our activities but aren't able to afford the full price, a limited number of partial-barter tickets are available. Please contact David Ruekberg for details.)

Tickets by mail: Specify the number of tickets wanted, your name, phone number, and mailing address, and your check made out to "Sierra Club." Mail to David Ruekberg, 3558 Oatka Creek Rd., Leroy, NY 14482. Orders must be postmarked by Saturday, October 18. Orders mailed after that date cannot be guaranteed. Your tickets will be mailed to you or held at the door.

Sierra Club Endorses Johnson for County Executive

Mayor William Johnson has received the endorsement of the New York Atlantic Chapter of the Sierra Club in his race for Monroe County Executive. This strongly sought stamp of approval from the environmental community carries with it our intention not only to speak out publicly on Johnson's behalf, but also to participate in 'get out the vote' type efforts. We will also be working to influence other environmental groups to support Bill Johnson. The Sierra Club recommends that persons who care about the future of our Monroe County environment vote for William Johnson. He has proven himself knowledgeable and supportive on issues environmentalists care about such as saving open space from poorly planned sprawl development, intelligent master planning, and a sensible, economically wise approach to joint metropolitan cooperation which does not develop one sector of the community at the expense of another. (See page 2 for further details on our selection process and why we have endorsed Bill Johnson for our next County Executive.)

For more information: Leave a message for David Ruekberg at 585-244-2625 or e-mail SierraRochTix@hotmail.com.

Proceeds benefit your local group of the Sierra Club, <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/stoltz.htm>.

Walkin' Jim's web page:
<http://www.walkinjim.com>

FROM THE CHAIR



by Hugh Mitchell

The Sierra Club is a politically active environmental group. We care about conservation enough to pay taxes so we can lobby and campaign for a better earth. This year our political efforts have led to requesting the candidates for County Executive to respond to a two-page environmental questionnaire. Mayor Johnson's response was a five-page series of detailed answers which reflect his knowledge and concern for environmental matters. In our numerous attempts to reach the Maggie Brooks campaign, we were repeatedly rebuffed by Party Chairman Stephen

Minarik who refused to see us or even return phone calls. So, our Executive Committee voted to endorse William Johnson for County Executive.

It's clear that Mr. Minarik doesn't treat everyone this way. Here are just a few examples of people who were successful in getting his Party's attention in and after the 1999 campaign: 1. Flaum-Chista Construction received a contract for Frontier Field construction and designation as master developers for redevelopment of the IOLA Complex. They contributed \$95,450 to the Party. 2. Spoleta-Formicola received approval for lease of County offices, lease of a Community College Building and appointment of Mr. Formicola to the Board of Directors of the Monroe County Water Authority. They contributed \$57,000. 3. Beau Productions received approval for

management of Frontier Field, lilac productions in Highland Park and the light show in Churchville Park. They contributed \$13,700. (See City News, 10/20/99 and 8/6/03.)

Monroe County is in deep economic trouble and has a cloudy future. What we need is open, cooperative, creative and farsighted leadership appropriate to the 21st century. We do not need the kind of business-as-usual, party bossism and top down leadership, which we witnessed under the Doyle administration. As stated by an outstanding editorial in the *Democrat and Chronicle* after the 1999 election, "If this community is going to join the ranks of those that will become renaissance beacons in the new century, it must have bold new leaders who can look beyond big party labels and small-minded political games."

Johnson to Address Environmental Community

Monday, September 22, 7:30 PM

Mayor William Johnson, Democratic candidate for County Executive, will speak to the Federation of Monroe County Environmentalists (public invited) on important issues related to his election campaign. His remarks are expected to particularly center on his environmental vision for a better future for Monroe County. Mayor Johnson, who has shown himself to be a friend of the environmental community, was the keynote speaker at the Sierra Club Environmental Forum of 2001. His usual democratic style is to open the floor to questions, so come prepared to ask about environmental issues.

The meeting is at First Baptist Church, 1862 Penfield Rd/ Route 441 (east of Five Mile Line Road and the Firehouse).

Johnson Answers Sierra Club Questionnaire

Here are a few of Bill Johnson's environmental positions prepared in response to our Rochester Regional Sierra Club's political questionnaire which was sent to both candidates, but only returned by the Johnson campaign.

- 1) Do you support an **environmental audit** of county departments (energy, solid waste, etc.)? "Yes. Such audits would both help protect the environment and make good business sense."
- 2) **Energy** issues: "Monroe County should participate in the NYS Green Building Initiative."
- 3) **Solid waste** issues. "The County can and should do more to promote recycling. ... (public education and in-school promotions)."
- 4) **Clean air** issues. "By spring 2004 Rochester metropolitan area is likely to be designated by EPA as a non-attainment area for ozone. ... We should

be active in develop[ing] an area-wide plan to reduce emissions from both mobile and stationary sources." 5) **Sprawl/Smart Growth/Regional Planning** issues. "County government must take a stronger role in guiding the activities of regional [planning] organizations. [The planning agencies] need to develop policies, goals, and strategies that promote region-wide prosperity through more intelligent land use decision making. ... The actions of COMIDA and the Monroe County Water Authority have a powerful effect on the location and character of development. I would forcefully suggest to these agencies that they tie their investments to smart land use planning. ... As County Executive, I will work to establish a broad-based consensus for the creation of a county master plan that includes effective incentives for more rational growth."

17th Annual Coastal Clean Up

Saturday, Sept. 20, 9 AM to 12 N

Volunteers Needed

What is there to do on a sunny, crisp, Saturday morning in September? You can participate in the Annual International Coastal Clean Up event held this year on September 20, 2003 from 9 am till noon. Every year volunteers clean up riverbanks, beaches, and shorelines all over the world. Last year, over 460 volunteers picked up litter along area streams and the shorelines of the Genesee River and Lake Ontario. They collected and disposed of over 2 tons of trash (4000 lbs.!) from area streams and four locations along the Genesee River and Lake Ontario: Durand Eastman Beach, Genesee Valley Park, Seth Green fishing site, and Turning Point Park. Volunteers worked in teams to pick up litter and also record the types and amount of trash found. This data is entered into a national database that you can access at: www.alsnyc.org.

Sierra Club members will be picking up trash along the edge of the Genesee River at the Lower Falls. We meet at 9 AM on the west side of the Genesee River at the fishermen's parking lot on Seth Green Drive. To get there, go to the intersection of Norton Street and St. Paul St. and turn west onto Seth Green Drive. The parking lot is on your left just 50 yards down Seth Green Drive. This is a unique area, the first barrier 4 miles south of the mouth of the river at Lake Ontario. Red shale rock layers are exposed on the cliff faces. This is a prime salmon fishing spot. The warmer microclimate harbors buckeye and sassafras. Check it out and you will find another ecosystem hidden along the Genesee River in Rochester.

Register online either at website for Water Education Collaborative: www.thewec.org

or with Laura E. Arney, 334-8548, larney@rochester.rr.com

Rediscovering the Genesee

The next phase of the "Rediscovering the Genesee" project is the Genesee River map. Designing and layout of the Genesee River Canoe Map is in the final stage. Our efforts this fall will be to decide on many questions. What information is necessary on the map? What style is suitable for the information? How big is the type? Who is the end user of the product? How do we print it?

The Atlantic Chapter administers money set aside for educational purposes in the Foundation Account. They have allocated grant funds to us for this work. People with design experience are encouraged to share their expertise. Commitment is limited to the fall phase. We live in an environmentally rich place that we can show off to others. Let's show off the Genesee River.

To help, contact Laura E. Arney 334-8548, larney@rochester.rr.com



Rediscovering the Genesee River
south of Fildore, Allegany County
June 2003

Nominations for ExCom Now Open

Are you interested in actively working to help our environment? Or perhaps you are interested in learning new executive skills by making decisions for nearly 2,500 people? Or maybe you are willing to share some of your existing skills and knowledge with our Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club? If so, consider becoming a member of our Executive Committee (ExCom). Nominations are now open for election to fill six seats on our ExCom. The Committee meets once per month, usually limited to two hours. Some members of the Ex-Com carry specific working assignments. Others serve "at-large." Presently we need a person to serve as recording secretary. Some other posts are also open.

One potential benefit of serving on the Ex-Com is paid travel to San Francisco for training on certain jobs or paid expenses to represent our group on the Atlantic Chapter Executive Committee which meets in various parts of New York State.

If you are interested in running for election to the Executive Committee of the Rochester Regional Group of Sierra Club contact David Ruekberg, Nominating Committee Chairperson, phone 538-6463 or e-mail: druekberg@msn.com

Movers and Bakers Wanted!

Are you handy with heavy equipment or a mixing spoon? One more way you can help your local Sierra Club is by pitching in with the upcoming "Forever Wild" concert with Jim Stoltz on October 25. We need volunteers to help with setting up Jim's equipment, taking tickets, selling merchandise, advertising, running errands, and making baked goods for the show. If you can help, please call David Ruekberg at 538-6463 as soon as possible. Thanks!

Tour of Recycling Center

5 PM Tuesday, October 7

There are few things that all of us do that contribute as much to environmental soundness as recycling. Recycling matters. But, reprocessing your goods demands a certain amount of faith, faith that your recycling center is actually recycling your goods and not simply tossing them in with the rest of the trash. While other communities seem to be falling behind (and even trying to dismember their recycling programs), Monroe County has recently upped the things you can recycle into your blue box and will soon begin a public campaign to describe the additions.

To see how Monroe County does recycling, why not go on a tour of the Recycling Center with us this fall and see what really happens to your trash? Tours are free, but limited. So, please call early to the Sierra club hot line and leave a message on our phone at (585) 244-2625 or e-mail Conservation Chairperson, Frank Regan (Frankregan@Rochesterenvironment.com) to confirm your reservation. **Our tour will begin on 5 PM, Tuesday, October 7.**

Special safety precautions: Wear appropriate footwear—no open-toe shoes or sandals. The tour goes to the garbage transfer station—those with dust allergies or aversions to strong odors may wish to skip this part of the tour. Tours may go outside—dress appropriately for the weather. Obey all posted safety directives and those given by your tour guides. The department must be given advance notice if any individuals in the group require special accommodations. If you have any questions, call 585-509-2883.

Directions to the Monroe County Recycling Center: Exit I-390 at Lexington Avenue; turn east on Lexington and turn right on Lee Road (at the light); make a left at the next light (Emerson St.); make a right at the next light (W Street); go to the end

of W Street and turn right, into the facility. Watch out for truck traffic!

Continue on about 150 yards to the tan and rust-colored building (Recycling Center) and park in the Visitor Parking section along the building or along the canal fence. The large Blue Building is the county's Resource Recovery Facility/Trash Transfer Station—do not enter or park alongside this building. An observation balcony is located on the second floor of the Recycling Center for those wishing to set up for photo opportunities.

Johnson Campaign Fund-raising and Volunteering Opportunities

Sierra Club members can help the Johnson for Monroe County Executive election by attending fund-raising events and volunteering to help get out the vote. Fund-raising events are:

1. September 26, at 5:30 PM
High Donor Event - with US Senator Hillary Clinton
2. October, 15 at 5:30 PM,
Low Donor Event Harro East Ballroom
3. October 9 (tentative) Fall Democratic Dinner at the Convention Center.

For all events call 232- 2410 for details. Or, check out our page on the election and get up-to-the-minute on all aspects, including volunteering and an explanation of the issues on this most important election in our area, as the Sierra Club joins with Mayor Johnson to help our environment. http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester/mc_executive.htm

Wetland Mitigation at the U of R Laser Lab

By Sara Rubin

As discussed in the previous issue of the Ecologue, the University of Rochester is expanding its Laser Lab facility at 250 East River Road in Brighton. The new construction will fill in a 16,000 sq.ft. pond, the deepest part of the wooded wetland which runs behind the Laser Lab. This pond supports ongoing populations of Western Chorus Frogs and Spring Peepers, as well as marsh birds and other wetland flora and fauna. On June 19, 2003, the Brighton Planning Board formally approved the project, and construction was slated to begin in July.

However, instead of this being just another instance in which a small wetland located on an individually owned property is lost to development, the University and the Brighton Town Planning Board devised what appears to be a commendable plan. This plan will accommodate the construction and will also, hopefully, result in a preserved and even expanded wetland habitat area at the U of R site.

The existing forested deep pond will be essentially "moved" to the east. This extension pond is intended to replace the main pond that exists there now. It will mimic the original pond in type, depth profile, about 18" deep and 16'000 sq. ft. in surface area. The new pond will however, have a deeper pocket to act as insurance against drying out too early in a very dry summer.

An additional excavation in a clear, depressed, wet area will create a new, excellent "Open Grassy Pond". This habitat will be about 4,500 sq. ft. and will have several 30" deep pockets to insure against draught. This second pond will be different in nature from the first, and will serve as an alternative site if the other eventually fails by becoming too densely treed, by being filled in through erosion, or for some other reason.

(continued on page 5)



Outing Schedule - Fall, 2003

Unless otherwise noted all Outings will start at the listed time from the lower (unpaved) parking lot at First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South, Rochester.

Wear clothing and boots appropriate to the weather.

Date/Time	Destination	Special Equipment
Sept. 27 at 9:30 am	Iroquois Wild Bird Flyway	Bring Bag Lunch
Oct. 11 at 9:30 am	Mumford Village Nature Trails	Bring Bag Lunch
Nov. 8 at 6:30 pm	Moon Hike at Letchworth State Park	none

Iroquois Wild Bird Flyway

Bird watchers consider Western New York a Mecca for observing wild bird migration. Just an hour's drive from Rochester, the Iroquois reservation is a large protected wild wetlands area, where feathered visitors are protected from hunters, while the environment and water resources are protected from development. The area offers thoughtfully planned walking trails as well.

Mumford Village Nature Trails

While known to many as an historic museum village, this area also offers groomed walking trails, which are carefully designed to highlight educational themes: geology, human development, and the like. Trail maps are available on-site containing detailed descriptions of highlights encountered. There will be a small fee charged by the Village of \$3.00 per adult, \$2.00 per child.

Moon Hike at Letchworth State Park

Our region's premier natural attraction, the Letchworth gorge, will also provide an excellent vantage spot

for viewing the expected lunar eclipse on this date.

Wetland Mitigation

(continued from page 4)

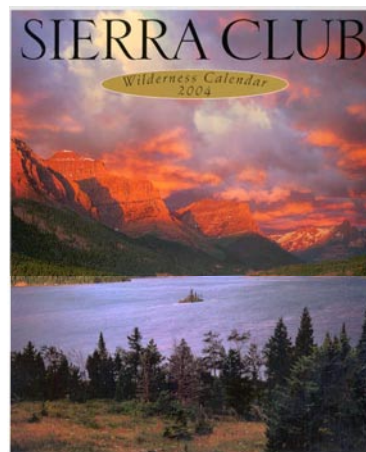
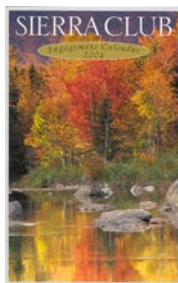
Though there is a huge range of success/failure in trying to establish viable wetlands, it seems that this plan for mitigation is highly commendable. The total wetland area has actually increased, and habitat has been planned as well as present knowledge allows.

The University of Rochester has gone far beyond a minimal mitigation effort by creatively proposing not one but two pond locations that fit very naturally into the existing land conformation. The university is actively trying to make the habitat as good and even better than it was, bigger and more diverse.

The resulting wetland, when functioning and successful, will bring credit to the University of Rochester and the Town of Brighton. It will be a showplace demonstrating cooperation between a conscientious community Conservation Board and large corporate needs, and a testament to responsible stewardship of this region's valuable and unique ecological heritage.

SIERRA CLUB 2004 CALENDARS

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CALENDAR

Sept. 6	Saturday	9:30 AM-----	Outing, Wesley Hill Nature Preserve (see page 5)-----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Sept. 11	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ³	St. John's Meadows
Sept. 17	Wednesday	7:30 PM-----	Wetlands Committee-----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Sept. 20	Saturday	9:00 AM	Annual Coastal Clean-up (see page 3)	Seth Green Drive ⁴
Sept. 22	Monday	7:30 PM-----	Johnson addresses FMCE (see Page 2)-----	1st Baptist Church, Penfield
Sept. 24	Wednesday	7:30 PM	Energy Committee	123 Alliance Ave. ⁵
Sept 27	Saturday	9:30 AM-----	Outing, Iroquois Wild Bird Flyway (see page 5) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Oct. 7	Tuesday	5:00 PM	Recycling Center Tour (see page 4) ⁶	Recycling Center, 384 Lee Road
Oct. 11	Saturday	9:30 AM-----	Outing: Mumford Village Nature Trails (see page 5)-----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹
Oct. 12	Sunday		Eco-logue deadline	
Oct. 15	Wednesday	7:30 PM-----	Wetlands Committee-----	150 Sunset Drive, Brighton
Oct 16	Thursday	6:30 PM	ExCom meeting ³	St. John's Meadows
Oct. 22	Wednesday	7:30 PM-----	Energy Committee -----	123 Alliance Ave. ⁵
Oct. 25	Saturday	7:00 PM	Fall Fund Raiser "Walkin Jim Stoltz" (see page 1)	12 Corners Presbyterian Church ²
Nov. 8	Saturday	6:30 PM-----	Outing: Letchworth lunar eclipse (see page 5) -----	meet at First Unitarian Church ¹

¹ First Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Rd. South

² 1200 Winton Road South, Rochester

³ Open to members. Call Hugh Mitchell at 244-2625

⁴ call Laura Arney 334-8548 for information and directions

⁵ Call 576-1421 for information and directions

⁶ Call 244-2625 for reservations, 509-2883 for information

Visit our web site at <http://newyork.sierraclub.org/rochester>

Also worth a visit: <http://rochesterenvironment.com>

To add your name to our E-mail list send your address to frankrrr@rochester.rr.com

Call 244-2625 for information about Sierra Club events and voice mail