



**SIERRA
CLUB**
FOUNDED 1892

Hudson/Mohawk Group



May/June 2006 Vol 30 No 3

“Aspens” by Ansel Adams in This is the American Earth

PICNIC

Sunday, May 21 1 - 5 pm
Saratoga Spa State Park

Join us for a special Members Gathering to meet new friends and renew acquaintances. It's an opportunity to talk about our environmental concerns and how to get involved. Bring your family and friends. The *Karista Pavilion* is near the playing fields and playgrounds. We will supply hot dogs and burgers (vegetarian and meat), rolls, soft drinks, paper products, and condiments. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Cost is \$5.00 for each adult and child over age 7 - younger children are free. To make a reservation (by May 19th) and/or for directions, contact Susan Lawrence at 489-5721, 424-6296 or by email at shlawr2@aol.com. Also, see our website for directions.

Programs

Programs are held at the Colonie Town Library, 629 Albany-Shaker Road (1/4 mile east of Northway Exit 4) 518-458-9274. Programs start at 7PM, doors open 630PM.

Tuesday, May 23rd - Discussion, slide show and hands-on demonstration of solar PV and hot water system technologies by professionals from Renewable Energy, LLC. Learn more about state rebates and tax credits, sales tax exemptions, federal tax credits and how they can be used for your solar PV or solar hot water system.

Smart Energy Solutions

by John VanDeloo

At the recent Summit held in San Francisco the Sierra Club delegates came to the conclusion that the greatest threat to the future of our planet is the way we consume and use our energy. In response, the program Smart Energy Solutions was created. We are the grassroots on which this program will grow. During the next few months we will discuss the various components of this program and how we can do what we do best - acting locally and thinking globally - to bring about change within our country; especially important since the federal government is failing to act on global warming. The time for us to act is now.

The 'COOL CITIES' campaign was started by the mayor of Seattle, and has spread to over 200 cities. The mayors of these cities have signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement to reduce carbon dioxide pollution in their cities to 7% below 1990 levels by the year 2012. While each city's solution is unique, there are three basic Cool Cities strategies:

- * Green Vehicle Fleets - using hybrids and cleaner vehicles in the city's fleet and encouraging hybrid and cleaner car use with free parking and other incentives;
- * Energy Efficient Solutions - using better technology to light streets and power buildings and industrial facilities;
- * Renewable Energy Solutions - demand that your cities, towns, school districts, etc. invest in clean and renewable power such as solar, wind, or geothermic to lower global warming emissions and generate a reliable source of safe, local electricity.

You can start to make a difference today, in your home, workplace, or city while saving dollars for yourself and other taxpayers. Invest in clean and renewable energy. Conserve in any way you can. For further information go to the Sierra Club website and check the 10 things you can do now. Get your city to sign on to the Cool Cities campaign (www.sierraclub.org/coolcities) Call John at 370-4932 with questions. We can make a difference but we need to act now.

Woodlawn Pine Barrens-Wetland Complex Bioblitz 2006

Noon Friday June 9th to Noon Saturday June 10th
Woodlawn School, Gifford Road, Schenectady

Goal: to identify as many species as possible during this 24 hour period, working in shifts of 2 - 6 hours with scientists in small groups. We want to raise awareness of biodiversity and its values by inviting the public and students to join the scientists in creating species lists for various taxonomic groups. We want to increase public awareness of this unique area, a recent addition to the Comprehensive Open Space Plan of New York State.

What you can do: work at the base camp, work with the students, work with the scientists, share your knowledge or learn from others. There will be scientists from the New York State Museum and many other groups. Participants of all ages are welcome. Free T-shirts while they last! Call John at 370-4932 for more information.

Hudson-Mohawk Group

Chair / *Susan Lawrence 489-5721
Programs/Volunteers/ SHLawr2@aol.com
Membership
Vice-Chair / Conservation Chair -
*John VanDeloo 370-4932
JVDMD@aol.com
Treasurer Jim Dufresne 233-7957
jdufre1928@aol.com
Secretary *Paul Caver 753-4205
PaulCaver@usadatanet.net

Environmental Aaron Mair, 465-8523
Justice aaronmair@yahoo.com
Newsletter Janet Given Chen 346-5439
jgiven@nycap.rr.com
Outings * Joe Gardner - 439-8719
jgardnr@nycap.rr.com
Political Chair Steve Redler 434-1540
stevedredler@yahoo.com
Fundraising John VanDeloo, Pete Sheehan
Social Chair - John Nemjo 279-0771
johnnemjo@aol.com
Newsletter * Tom Blandy 274-2098
Distribution TBlandy@nycap.rr.com
Tabling Lucinda Schoonbeck
434 -4749

Issue Gurus

Hudson River - John VanDeloo,
*Pete Sheehan
psheehan74@netscape.net 489-5803
Cascade Lakes/Adirondacks -
*Roger Gray (RTG50@aol.com)434-8681
Sprawl/Smart Growth - Susan
Lawrence, J. VanDeloo, Aaron Mair
Energy - Pete Sheehan
Pesticides/Clean Water - John
VanDeloo

Clean Air - Susan Lawrence
Webmaster - Tom Reynolds
hm-webmaster@newyork.
sierraclub.org

* Executive Committee Members

The Hudson-Mohawk Group Executive Committee meets the first Monday of every month. Members are encouraged to attend! Please call Susan Lawrence to confirm. This newsletter is published 6 times per year (or more) by the Hudson-Mohawk Group of the Sierra Club's Atlantic Chapter. Submit all letters, including name and phone number, to: The Editor, Hudson-Mohawk Group, PO Box 8447, Albany, NY 12208-8447. We reserve the right to edit and keep all articles. Views expressed by the contributors may or may not be those of the Sierra Club or the Hudson-Mohawk Group. The subscription rate is \$6/6 issues; subscriptions for members are free.



OUTINGS

Thursdays, May 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th - The Early Birder - 7 AM - Join us for bagels and shade grown organic coffee. Plus some great birding in Five River's woods, fields and wetlands. Beginners are always welcome. DEC's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center, 56 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY. **H,E**

Saturday, May 6th - Cascade Lakes Project, Adirondacks - Help with the Hudson-Mohawk Group's semi-annual cleanup project along the Cascade Lakes. Take a short hike in the afternoon. Contact Ralph and Doreen at 346-2818 **H,T**

Saturday, May 6th - Wanna Go Fishing? Island Creek Park, Albany 10 AM. Annual outing for the kids of W. Haywood Burns Environmental Education Center. Call Nate Davis, Sierra Club ICO Chair for information at 426-2924 or email at ndavis@w-haywoodburns.org **E**

Saturday, May 13 - Woodlawn Preserve- Final work day before the Bio-Blitz! Cleanup, check trails, mark the major trails and whatever else we need to do to get set for the fun. Call John, 370-4932, or meet us at 9AM at the end of Gifford Rd. Rain date May 14th. **T,C,H**

Saturday, May 13th - Spring wildflowers at the Schodack Area Land Trust's Palmer Road Preserve - 1030 AM. The Palmer Road Preserve is a 57 acre forested plot owned by the Schodack Area Land Trust. The terrain is rolling hills through a northern hardwood forest, crossed by a branch of the Mordner Kill. We should see many early spring wildflowers on this two-mile hike. The trail may be muddy. This outing is jointly sponsored by the Schodack Area Land Trust and the Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy. Both are exploring ways to work together to continue SALT's land conservation efforts in this part of Rensselaer County. Directions: I-90 to exit 10 at Schodack Center, turn left (east) onto Miller Rd. After 0.6 miles, turn right onto Palmer Road. After 0.7 miles, turn right onto Thoroughbred Road (Stable Gate Subdivision). We will meet at the circle at the end of the road. Leader is Bob Ingalls (518) 272-2978. **H,E**

Friday Noon to Saturday Noon, June 9 & 10 - Bio-Blitz in the Woodlawn Preserve, Schenectady - Come and help the biologists, botanists, entomologists and other scientists as they attempt to identify and inventory as many species from as many taxonomic groups as possible within a 24 hour period. This scientific race against time is co-sponsored by the Hudson-Mohawk Group and is as much fun as it is educational. It's a great opportunity for school groups to participate in a scientific study. To volunteer, or for more information, call John at 370-4932. **E,C,H,T**

Saturday, June 10 - Henry Gerber Reist Wildlife Sanctuary, Niskayuna - A walk in this national treasure, with Sanctuary Chair Carl George as our guide. The Reist is 112 acres of mostly gentle terrain, with some ancient sand dunes that need climbing. 1PM, The Center for the Forest Preserve, 897 St. Davids Lane. Call Joe Gardner at 439-8719 **H,E**

Saturday, June 24th - Highway Cleanup, Route 9, Latham - Join us for our clean-up of our new Adopt-a-Highway site. We have a two mile stretch of Rt. 9 from the bridgeover the Mohawk south, and will work from 9 - 11 AM. For details caall Virginia Boyle Traver at 489-5758. **C,T**

Key: H: Hiking E: Education C: Conservation T: Trail work

Important note: All outing members will sign an 'Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability' sheet prior to participation in outings.

Passive Solar Heating: An Innovation From The Past

by Tom Blandy

Blessings on them who are doing solar. The hitch seems to be that expensive gadgetry is required. Making solar electricity, for instance, involves lots of pricey little discs in dozens of glass boxes on your roof wired to more gear in your basement. But there is another, no-moving-parts approach - collect it directly to heat interior space.

The most efficient solar collector, bar none, is a south-facing window. Close to 100% efficiency. The sun is low even at noon in winter, its high frequency/short wave light zips through the glass, hits whatever is inside - floor, furniture, cat - and is converted to sensible heat. This is reradiated as low frequency/longwave infrared rays, which cannot go through glass. Energy captured. This phenomenon is the basis of the passive solar heating much explored in the 70's and 80's. A very well-insulated structure, well sealed against air infiltration, most windows oriented south, with high heat-capacity mass inside - tiled concrete floor, masonry wall, tanks of water - to soak up the heat, reradiating to the space after the sun goes away. Insulated night coverings on the glass are needed, also attention to adequate ventilation for the inhabitants.

One sided greenhouses, with glass to the south only, and insulated, heat-absorbing mass on the north are a good way to use passive. Retired local news anchor Ernie Tetrault promoted one of these for commercial vegetable growing. Small ones are often attached to houses. A cold frame (really a warm frame) to start plants early is an old-fangled, even simpler solar device.

Cool Cities Campaign

Our January/February 2006 issue described the Sierra Club's Cool Cities Campaign for states, counties, and localities to initiate efforts aimed at reducing energy consumption, using renewable energy and reducing auto emissions - all aimed at reducing global warming. To help us work locally with communities, contact Pete Sheehan, John VanDeloo or Susan Lawrence (contact info pg 2). Go to www.sierraclub.org/globalwarming/coolcities/intro.asp for more information

We Need Help!

Members Chair/Volunteer Coordinator

This position calls for a person or persons who likes meeting people and working with them on volunteer opportunities. The ability to help get our members connected to opportunities that fit their interests, skills and availability is the key.

Fund Raising Chair

We need a person or persons with experience in fund raising and some exciting new initiatives to coordinate our fund raising efforts, including special events, donations for key projects and our ongoing operations, local grant writing, merchandise sales and more.

Communications/Publicity Chair

We need an outgoing person with strong communications skills and experience with publicity to help us get the word out for our events, programs, outings and concerns.

Volunteer your time and talent to make the programs and goals of the Sierra Club a reality in your community. We have many opportunities - fill out the insert inside this newsletter and send it to us to let us know your volunteer interests. Call Susan Lawrence for more information (contact info on page 2)

Celebrate W0802
spring flowers!

Join the Sierra Club today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!

My Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 MasterCard Visa American Express
Exp Date ____/____/____

Cardholder Name _____
Card Number _____

Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL ADULT	
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
SUPPORTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
CONTRIBUTING	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
LIFE	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
SENIOR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Enclose check and mail to: W0802
Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968

F94Q **W** 1

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Executive Committee Meetings -

.Monday, May 1, 2006

Monday, June 5, 2006

Conservation Committee -

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Wednesday, June 21, 2006

Meetings are usually held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 21 Hackett Blvd., Albany, NY. Members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please contact Susan Lawrence if you plan to attend in case of change of venue.

Picnic -

Sunday, May 21, 2006

Program -

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

Hedi McKinley MSW, DCSW

Certified Clinical Social Worker

Individual Psychotherapy:
Problems in Marriage,
Relationships, and Just Living.
Depression, Anxiety, etc.

737 Madison Ave, Albany

435-0512

Most Insurances Accepted

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL -

Mountainman Outdoor, Old Forge

and Inlet, wants you to enjoy the Oswegatchie and Fulton Chain waterways of the western Adirondacks. Watercraft mentor John Nemjo invites Outing Leaders to qualify for regular and ICO outings in a particularly beautiful part of the Forest Preserve. Call John Nemjo at 279-4777

North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners visit www.NABCEP.org to find a qualified Photovoltaic Solar Installer for your system

Gary S. Bowitch, Attorney
Environmental Law
Brownfields Redevelopment
Oil Spill Litigation
434-0327

Be An Underwriter!

Contact Janet Given-Chen for rates.
518-346-5439
JGiven@nycap.rr.com



Address Service Requested:
Sierra Club
PO Box 42968
Boulder, Colorado 80322-2968

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALBANY, NY
PERMIT NO. 806

Join Us For A Summer Picnic

**Sunday, May 21 at Saratoga
Spa State Park**

Details on Page 1

Printed with soy based ink on recycled paper containing 30% post-consumer content.



0802