



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Hudson/Mohawk Group



November 2002 Vol. 26 No. 6

"Aspens" by Ansel Adams in This is the American Earth

Sierra Club Social

Tuesday, November 19

7:30 pm

Malt River Brewing Company
Latham Circle Mall

Are you interested in getting involved with our local Sierra Club Group? Are you interested in making a difference? Are you interested in making new friends? If so, you can do it all by joining us for some light hearted discussions about who we are and how we work while enjoying some good eats and drinks at the Malt River Brewing Company in Latham.

The Sierra Club is your chance to get involved in helping our communities make more environmentally sound decisions. We have over 3,000 members in the local Hudson-Mohawk group and we are looking for some of you to get involved and help us do our job. The first step however is for us to get to know you and for you to get to know us. Whether you have an immediate interest in helping out or just want to get acquainted with your local Sierra Club leaders you can do so here and possibly make some new friends as well.

So mark your calendars for Tuesday November 19th at 7:30 p.m. for our monthly Sierra Club Social. See you there!

For more information contact John Nemjo, Sierra Club Social Chair, at 279-4777.

Location and Directions – Malt River Brewing Company. Just off the Northway and Route 9 at the Latham Circle Mall.

First Hike-a-Thon a Success!

by Pete Sheehan

The first annual Hike-a-thon for Clean Water was held Saturday, October 5th in Tivoli Preserve in the Arbor Hill section of Albany. Hikers were able to enjoy the newly improved trails in the Preserve and view an abundance of wildlife found within. Each hiker took a number of trips on the 3/4 mile loop around Tivoli Lake. Of particular note is one of our young environmentalists, Kathryn Davis, daughter of Executive Committee member and Secretary of the Hudson-Mohawk Group Maureen Ferraro-Davis. Kathryn was quick to point out the presence of a graceful great blue heron on the banks of Tivoli Lake!



Sierra Club members enjoy a moment of relaxation after the hike through Tivoli Preserve in Albany.

On their pledge forms, supporters indicated how much they would pay per trip around the lake. Through the many pledges generated, we were able to raise \$450 for clean water efforts in the greater Capital District area. Thanks to all of you who provided support for our hikers! We look forward to expanding the Hike-a-thon next year and getting more of you involved. It is a great way to have fun and help raise much needed money for our group. If any of you

would like to help organize this event next year, please call John Nemjo at 279-4777. Let's get started on it early for an even bigger success!

Help decide the future of the Hudson

by Fred LeBrun

Editor's Note: Fred LeBrun is a columnist for the Albany Times Union and a long-time Hudson River advocate. In a recent column he made a strong argument for citizen involvement in the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) facet of the Hudson River clean-up. Since grassroots activism is what the Sierra Club is all about, we are pleased to reprint his column here with permission. The column first ran in the Times Union on October 22, 2002.

For a couple of years, the hottest debate over the Hudson was, of course,

whether to dredge the upper river. This was page one stuff, complete with expensive propaganda films from polluter General Electric trying to sway the public — and pressure the Environmental Protection Agency — against dredging the river bottom contaminated with PCBs.

There were overflow crowds at public hearings from Fort Edward to New York City, expressing themselves in the most adamant and passionate terms. Citizens groups, environmental activists, elected officials — they all caught the fever that featured more heat and noise than light. You couldn't go to

Cont. on p. 5

Hudson-Mohawk Group

Chair	Pete Sheehan, 489-5803 psheeha5@nycap.rr.com
Vice-Chair	Susan Lawrence, 489-5721
Treasurer/ Membership	Clarence Gregory, 393-7100 clarence.gregory@alum.mit.edu
Secretary	Maureen Ferraro-Davis, 235-0728 maureenfd@aol.com
Conservation Chair	Roger Gray, 434-8681 rtg50@aol.com
Environmental Justice	Aaron Mair, 465-8523 aaronmair@ajej.org
Newsletter	Sarah Howard, 477-4081 showard@capital.net
Outings	Bill Koebbeman, 399-5027 WKEBB@juno.com
Political Chair	Jim Malatras, 459-6952 greek45@yahoo.com
Fundraising/ Programs/ Social Chair/ Volunteers	John Nemjo, 279-4777 Johnnemjo@aol.com

Issue Gurus

Hudson River	Aaron Mair, 465-8523 aaronmair@ajej.org
Cascade Lakes	Roger Gray, 434-8681 rtg50@aol.com
Solid Waste/ Recycling	Clarence Gregory, 393-7100 clarence.gregory@alum.mit.edu
Energy	Jim Malatras, 459-6952 greek45@yahoo.com
Pesticides/ Clean Water	John Van Deloo, 370-4932 JVDMD@aol.com
Clean Air	Susan Lawrence, 489-5721
ANWR/ World Trade	Paul Caver, 686-7290 paulscaver@aol.com

The Hudson-Mohawk Group Executive Committee meets the first Monday evening of every month (except July). Members are encouraged to attend! Please call Pete Sheehan to confirm.

This newsletter is published 5-6 times per year (or more) by the Hudson-Mohawk Group of the Sierra Club's Atlantic Chapter. Submit all letters to the editor to: Hudson-Mohawk Group, Capitol Station, Box 7194, Albany, NY 12224, or email showard@capital.net. Include your name and phone number. 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 \$5/5 issues; subscriptions for members are free. Contact John Nemjo for advertising rates.

First Annual Calendar Drive Contest

Help us raise some necessary funds and help others with their holiday gift buying. Win prizes, prizes, prizes. Help with the Sierra Club Annual Calendar Drive by selling calendars to your friends, your neighbors and your co-workers. Take to the streets and ring those bells—Sierra Club Calendars are here. Why shop in the malls when you and your friends can purchase their gifts from us, and help support the local Sierra Club and its work in

helping make our community a better place to live.

Prizes include:

- a Dinner for two at the Ginger Man Restaurant in Albany;
- a \$75 Gift Certificate to Mountainman Outdoor Supply Company (see ad this newsletter);
- a Rafting Trip for two on the Hudson River with Adirondack River Outfitters;
- and many more.

Join the Executive Committee

Next month there will be an election for the Executive Committee (Ex-Comm) of the Hudson-Mohawk Group. There are currently four regular two-year openings, and one one-year opening. There are only three candidates for these five positions at this time.

The responsibilities of Ex-Comm members include attending monthly meetings (except July), and volunteering time towards conservation efforts and/or administrative functions of the Group. Members vote on issues and determine the direction of the local group. If you are or would like to be more involved in local, state, regional or national environmental issues, here is your chance to work with the local group towards common goals. Any member of the Hudson-Mohawk Group is welcome to run for election to the Ex-Comm.

The December issue of the newsletter will include statements by the candidates as well as a voting ballot. If you are interested in running for the Ex-Comm, please email a candidate statement of approximately 150 words to Sarah Howard, Newsletter Editor, at showard@capital.net, by Nov. 18. Or, send it to: Nominating Committee, Sierra Club Hudson-Mohawk Group, Capitol Station, Box 7194, Albany, NY, 12224. For more information on joining the Ex-Comm, contact Clarence Gregory at 393-7100.

"Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." — *Simon M. Lee*

Join today and receive a **FREE** Sierra Club Weekender Bag



My Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 email _____
 Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 Please charge my Mastercard Visa
 Exp. Date ____/____/____
 Cardholder Name _____
 Card Number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47

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.

 **SIERRA CLUB**
 F94Q W 0802 T
 Enclose check and mail to:
 Sierra Club
 P.O. Box 52968
 Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Notes From the Chair

We are in the process of trying something new to give you more chances for involvement AND to bring you our newsletter more often. You'll note that this is the November issue. You will get a separate issue in December also. What we are trying out is to give you more up to date information on our events (see the listing of Sierra Social and other neat volunteer stuff) and news. This takes resources to do, however. You'll notice new advertisers in this issue-- please patronize their businesses!

We could really use about \$2,000 to make this happen as we plan our upcoming budget. Please be generous if you can to assist us in this new venture! Send your checks, payable to the Hudson Mohawk Group, to our address shown on page 2. Note that donations to the Sierra Club Hudson-Mohawk Group are not tax-deductible. You'll get to become more involved if you'd like, and help us mobilize all of our resources better to help save the environment. Thanks for your ongoing support of our efforts.

Hudson, cont. from p. 1

a diner along 200 miles of river and estuary and not get into an argument, or at least I couldn't.

But once the EPA came down with a pro-dredging decision and General Electric acknowledged that it was accepting that decision and moving on to the next phase, you'd have thought that debate had happened on another planet. Interest in the health and future of the river, the supposed nub of the dredging debate, all but disappeared. It's too bad we can't be as passionate about providing constructive suggestions to improve the Hudson as we were about opinionating.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and our own Department of Environmental Conservation are the trustees of the Hudson River acting on our behalf. While the EPA's Superfund cleanup record of decision calling for the removal of 150,000 pounds of PCBs from 40 miles of upper river got all the attention, the shy sister of a duo act is the natural resource damage assessment. General Electric is supposed to foot most of the bill for both. There was a time when, we're told, GE was actually more concerned about a whopping NRDA fine than it was of the \$500 million or so cleanup cost.

But for vague reasons that might have something to do with national politics, it appears that instead of being forced to fork over hundreds of millions including penalties to the trustees, General Electric will fund a thick dictionary of projects and repairs, including making myriad habitat improvements, creating fish ladders, removing dams from feeder streams, building new boat launches, purchasing buffer lands and establishing public access all along the estuary and up through the contaminated part of the river.

Now's the time for all concerned citizens to put in their two cents on how the river can be made better. Yet, apart from one recent and well-attended hearing in Albany, few have taken the opportunity. Not that the trustees themselves won't be presenting a litany of repair work to General Electric, which is as it should be. But now is when ordinary citizens can make an enormous difference in what the river will look like and what services the river can be shaped to provide — the shoreline of tomorrow.

To get involved in the Sierra Club Hudson River/PCB Clean-up Campaign contact Roger Gray (434-8681/rtg50@aol.com), or Chris Ballantyne (587-9166/ chris.ballantyne@sierraclub.org).

New York's #1

& CANOE & KAYAK Dealer

EVERY YEAR
Paddles & Kayaks
in stock

*Test Paddle
BEFORE
you buy!*



Photo courtesy
of Bell Canoe
Works and
Save Paddle

We no nah
Bell Canoe Works
Dagger • Eddyline
Bliss Stick
Riot • Perception
Walden Kayaks
Current Designs
Necky • Ocean Kayak
Grumman • Old Town
Heritage Kayaks
Feathercraft

YAKIMA TRULE

Lotus • Werner • Stohlquist
Kokotat • Aquabound
Extrasport • Paddleboy • Mirche I
Sawyer • Banding Branches
The Original Bug Shirt
Camp Paddles



patagonia[®]

**Hiking &
Backpacking
Supplies**

Dana Designs • The North Face
Mountain Hardware • Wamot
Merrell • Osprey and more ...



**MOUNTAINMAN
OUTDOOR
SUPPLY COMPANY**

Visit us on-line for awesome specials:
www.mountainmanoutdoors.com
*Shipping available to anywhere in the U.S.

Rt. 28, Old Forge, NY 13420 • (315) 369-6672
Rt. 28, Nlet, NY 13360 • (315) 357-6672

The Sierra Club and You – Making a Difference

The Sierra Club is the nation's largest activist based environmental organization and we are looking for your help. Whether you have only a couple hours each month or have an interest in getting into the nitty gritty of some of our most pressing conservation issues, we need you.

Our success depends on active volunteers. Many of the jobs do not require any experience other than the willingness to spend a small amount of your free time to help us get our business in order. Much of the work involves simple organizational skills without having to attend politically charged meetings or lengthy public hearings. Perhaps the best part of getting involved is that you will meet new friends and have fun. So if you want to help our local group make a bigger difference in our local community, help us by volunteering just a few hours a month.

If you see anything listed below

that catches your interest please give us a call. If you don't see anything but want to get involved anyway please give us a call and we'll create a position for you. And if possible attend the Sierra Club Social on November 19th.

We are waiting to hear from you.

Volunteers Needed

Fundraising Chair– We need a motivated person to help raise funds to carry on our important work. Projects include annual calendar drive, selling ads for our newsletter, T-shirt sales and helping with our exciting benefit bluegrass concert in June 2003.

Publicity Chair– Do you have a knack to getting the word out? The Sierra Club needs your help to assist us in advertising our events, programs, outings, and positions.

Programs Chair– Person needed to arrange and conduct our monthly membership meeting and program series.

Newsletter Coordinator– Donate a few hours of your time each month to help us get our newsletter from the printer.

Newsletter Party Goers– It's just 2-3 hours a month but without it our members do not receive their monthly Sierra Club Newsletter. Good conversation and a chance to get your feet wet and your fingers sticky.

Assistant Outings Leaders– Help lead our trips into the great beyond.

Environmental Education Chair– Help get the message out by taking it to the streets. Organize the local group's information and literature and take it to schools, events, Earth Day gatherings, music festivals, and anywhere else that we can be heard. Have fun and meet lots of new and friendly people.

To volunteer for any of these positions or to sign up to receive regular email listings of events, contact John Nemjo at 279-4777.



Hudson-Mohawk Group Newsletter
Capitol Station, Box 7194
Albany, NY 12224

Return service requested

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

Sierra Club Social

Tues. November 19, 7:30 pm
Malt River Brewing Company
Latham Circle Mall



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

