



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Hudson/Mohawk Group



October 2004 Vol. 28 No7

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

Upcoming Events

Annual Awards Dinner Thursday, October 28, 2004, 7PM at the Italian-American Community Center, Green Island - Please join us this evening to honor Congressman McNulty’s consistent record of support for the environment and hear his insider view of how the Bush/Cheney administration has worked to dismantle 25 years of environmental laws and policy. We will also be honoring some well-deserving local Hudson-Mohawk Group Sierra Club volunteers for their hard work for the Group and the Environment. Please contact Pete Sheehan (489-5803 or Psheehan12@netzero.com) or Roger Gray (434-8681 or rtg50@aol.com) see page 4 for more information

Forum on Energy Conservation, Saturday October 2, 4 - 6pm at the Bethlehem Town Hall, 5 Delaware Avenue, Delmar.

Speakers from the State Energy Office, RPI, and Community Energy will talk about alternative energy (including wind), energy conservation, energy use, and transportation. The Hudson-Mohawk Group is a co-sponsor of this forum.

Nominations Sought For Executive Committee - The terms of four of our Ex-Com members expire at the end of 2004. The Group by-laws require the Nominating Committee to place six candidates (Group members) on the ballot (two more than terms expiring). Please help by suggesting potential candidates (you may include yourself.) Contact Nominating Chair Janet Given-Chen, or nominating committee members Susan Lawrence, John VanDeloo, or Maureen Ferraro Davis (contact info on page 2). Thanks!

Kerry “Gets It” *Sierra Club Endorses John Kerry*

“We are faced with a choice between the most anti-environmental president ever and a true friend who would bring to the office a dedication to improving all issues facing the environment. The last four years have witnessed an outright assault on 30 years of environmental progress, selection of staunchly anti-environmental judges, backroom deals with polluting industries - the list goes on.” said Sierra Club President Larry Fahn when the Club announced its endorsement of John Kerry for President.

The Club’s endorsement surprised few Sierra Club activists, but even Club members may not realize the extent to which Kerry has been an environmental leader throughout his career in public service. In 1970, fresh back from service in Vietnam, he gave some of the first speeches of his career at Massachusetts’ first Earth Day, which he helped organize. As Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor he co-chaired the 1983 Acid Rain Task Force and issued the Call For Action Against Acid Rain Report, at the time one of the most comprehensive analyses of the damage caused by acid rain in this country.

The League of Conservation Voters this year gave Kerry a **96.5% career rating, the highest LCV rating of any presidential nominee ever from a major party**. He has been a Senate leader on fuel efficiency, led the charge against the Bush administration’s attempts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and has strongly opposed the nominations of anti-environmental candidates for judicial and federal agency appointments. Kerry advocates removing the incentives in federal regulations and tax policy that encourage sprawl, and he favors restoring the Superfund Act’s ‘polluter pays’ trust fund to clean up hazardous waste sites. He has promoted an energy policy that would reduce our dependence on oil, increase our energy efficiency, and increase the amount of clean, renewable energy used to generate electricity. In 1997 Kerry traveled to Kyoto to promote the climate control accords that President Bush subsequently shunned, and he has stated that as president he would work to re-establish the United States as a world leader on environmental policy.

The Sierra Club’s Political Committee sent an environmental questionnaire to all of the presidential candidates earlier this year, and the Club’s interview team interviewed the seven Democratic contenders who returned the questionnaires. (President Bush did not return his questionnaire). “Senator Kerry had an amazing grasp of the issues,” reported Fahn. “This guy really gets it.”

Kerry’s running mate, Senator John Edwards, has led congressional opposition to the Bush administration’s plans to weaken the Clean Air Act, calling on the EPA to make power plants in 13 states reduce smokestack emissions. He has fought to protect North Carolina’s beaches and waterways and spoken out forcefully against the administration’s pork-laden, backward thinking energy bill. Edwards has fought to secure funding for environmental projects such as new waste treatment technology to help hog farmers clean up waste lagoons, and he has introduced legislation to make the Blue Ridge Mountains a National Heritage area, as well as legislation that would offer a tax credit for the use of environmentally-friendly technology.

by Tom Valtin of the Planet

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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 5-6 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 to: 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 \$5/5 issues; subscriptions for members are free. Contact John Nemjo for advertising rates.

Outings

Saturday, October 9th

Join in to help our Fall clean-up of the Great Flats Nature Trail in Rotterdam.

We will meet at the parking area on Campbell Road and discuss threats to the aquifer, walk the trail and clear it of summer growth.

Time permitting we will then go to the Plotter Kill Nature Preserve and hike to the waterfalls. Call John at 370-4932.

Sunday, October 17th: Buck and Shelving Rock Mts. East of Lake George

We will climb these two mountains for some great views of the lake and surrounding mountains. Total distance is four miles for both peaks.

Call John at 370-4932 for more information.

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

Keep in Touch With Our Website -

www.newyork.sierraclub.org/hudsonmohawk

You Can Make A Difference

by volunteering with the Hudson-Mohawk Group. To volunteer to work on conservation issues, environmental education programs, fundraising, election issues, outings, newsletter distribution or other Group activities, please use the contact information found on this page.



Other Activities

**Saturday, October 30th,
10AM - Reading the Mountains of Home - a lecture and outing led by Prof. John Elder**

This is a joint program of the Grafton Lakes State Park and the Rensselaer-Taconic Land Conservancy. Professor John Elder of Middlebury College will explore the relationship

between our sense of place and our awareness of local stories -geological, ecological, and human. Following the lecture and brunch, interested participants can take an easy 2-3 mile hike along trails and old roads in the Shaver Pond area. Copies of *Reading the Mountains of Home* will be available for sale and can be signed by the author at the brunch. For registration and more information, visit www.friendsofgraftonlakes.org and click on 'events'; or call Melissa Wright at Grafton Lakes State Park at (518) 279-1155.



The hike to Santanoni on September 11th drew wide participation from Sierra Club members - Bill Given came up from Long Island, while Joanne and Ron Haring joined us from Rouse's Point. Along with Howdy and Bailey, our canine companions, we enjoyed a beautiful day. Sadly, we discovered that the beautiful old barn near the creamery had burned in early summer. We're all looking forward to returning in the winter for our snowshoe/cross country ski visit.

Sierra Club Endorses :

President: John Kerry Every vote is needed! See article on page 1

House of Representatives: Congressman Mike McNulty - he is only one of a dozen members of the House of Representatives to receive a 100% rating in the last three years in a row from the League of Conservation Voters. He also received consistently high marks from the LCV in the preceding years. In addition to being an early ally of the Sierra Club campaign to clean up the Hudson River of GE's PCB's, he has also spoken eloquently against the Bush/Cheney roll-back of Clean Air protections. In the past year he has voted to oppose logging subsidies in the Tongass National Forest and to prevent road-building in this magnificent old-growth area; voted to oppose weakening the National Environmental Policy Act, voted to keep snowmobiles out of Yellowstone National Park, and voted to prevent the Department of Energy from bypassing the environmental review process for new or expanding refineries. He has also made important contributions to our environmental health by such actions as bringing Federal housing rehab grants to low-income residents of Rensselaer - which helps keep our cities livable and reduces urban sprawl.

New York State Senate: Senator Neil Breslin - Senator Breslin was another early and enthusiastic supporter of our campaign to clean GE's PCB's from the Hudson, speaking eloquently for the clean-up at EPA hearings. Last year he was a strong supporter on brownfields legislation, taking the Sierra Club position against Senate leadership on an early bad bill, and providing strong advocacy for the good final bill which was passed by both the Senate and Assembly. Senator Breslin has been a consistent supporter of Sierra Club positions whenever we have called on him.

Sierra Club Endorses

New York State Assembly:

Assembly Member Ron

Cannestrari - He is a strong supporter of the Club's Hudson River/Clean Up the PCB's campaign; also a strong supporter of the good brownfields/superfund legislation.

Assembly Member Jack McEneny


A strong supporter of the Club's Hudson River/Clean Up the PCBs campaign; also a strong supporter of the good brownfields/superfund legislation. Assembly Member McEneny has also been a consistent supporter of the Sierra Club position to oppose parkland alienation legislation - by which some municipalities seek approval of the Legislature to use municipal parkland for non-park purposes.

Assembly Member Paul Tonko is a strong supporter of renewable energy. He's worked hard to shepherd through the Assembly a power plant siting reform bill which contained requirements for assessing cumulative impacts, avoiding adverse environmental justice impacts, including alternative and renewable energy sources; the bill significantly prohibits the Siting Board from overriding local ordinances (unlike the current law).

The Most Important Election of a Lifetime! Don't Sit on the Sidelines! Join the Sierra Club GOTV* SWAT** Team!


You know this nation's environment is at stake on November 2. Help make sure all voters know it. Join the Sierra Club GOTV* SWAT** Team and go where you're needed the most the weekend before the election. Possible destinations are Concord NH, Columbus OH, Pittsburgh PA or right in your own community. Call MaryAnn at 587-9166 to sign on. (*GOTV = Get Out The Vote; **SWAT = Save Our Water and Trees).

SIERRA CLUB 2005 CALENDARS




Sierra Club 2005 Wilderness Wall Calendar—Spiral bound, month-by-month format, featuring 12 majestic North American landscapes.

Sierra Club 2005 Engagement Calendar—Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular photographs and "wire-o" binding.



ORDER FORM

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total	Ship To:
Engagement	\$12.95	_____	_____	Name _____
Wilderness	\$11.95	_____	_____	Address _____
Subtotal				City _____
Shipping (10% of subtotal)				State _____ ZIP _____
Sales tax				Make checks payable to Sierra Club and mail to the return address shown on your newsletter.
Grand Total				



SIERRA CLUB
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Mail calendar orders to:
Janet Given-Chen
809 Karenwald Lane
Schenectady, NY 12309

Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

(First, be sure to read and make note of our endorsements on the back of this page)

Tear off and mail this form to: Pete Sheehan, 32 Buckingham Drive, Albany, New York 12208

No, I cannot attend, but enclosed is a contribution of _____ toward the environmental work of the Hudson-Mohawk Group (make checks payable to Sierra Club Hudson-Mohawk Group)

YES! I will attend. Enclosed is _____ for _____ tickets.
(Cost is Thirty Dollars for adults, Ten Dollars for children.)

Sierra Club Annual Dinner October 28, 2004 - Reservation Form

"In my 14 years in the House of Representatives I have never witnessed a more concerted and underhanded rollback of this nation's environmental protections as we have seen in the 4 years of the Bush administration." - Congressman McNulty

Please join us on Thursday, October 28 at 7PM at the Italian-American Center in Green Island to honor Congressman McNulty's consistent record of support for the environment and hear his insider view of how the Bush/Cheney administration has worked to dismantle 25 years of environmental law and policy. We will also be honoring some well-deserving local Hudson-Mohawk Group Sierra Club volunteers for their hard work for the Group and the environment.

Congressman McNulty To Speak At Annual Dinner on the Bush/Cheney Threat to the Environment



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**Annual Awards Dinner
Oct. 28th, 7 PM at the
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Community Center in
Green Island**

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