



SIERRA
CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

Iroquois Messenger

IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACTS

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TULLY VALLEY — APRIL 27

Mud boils (or mud volcanoes): ever heard of them? Bill Kappel, a Hydrologist and Section Chief for the U.S. Geological Survey — Water Resources Division, will explain them plus other unique hydro-geologic features of the Tully Valley at the southern end of Onondaga Creek Valley. His visual presentation will include landslides, artesian-pressured water, and brine flowing beneath the land surface — which gave Syracuse its “Salt City” nickname. We’ll learn about their origin and significance in the Onondaga Lake watershed.

Bill has degrees in Forest Hydrology and Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University plus extensive experience with hydrology projects in New York, Missouri and Wisconsin. Information: 315-428-1905.

FRESH WATER — MAY 25

Michael Spada’s slide show will add another chapter to our ongoing series on Onondaga Lake. He’ll give us some history on Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) as well as on Onondaga Lake during pre-European, industrial (pollution), and present times. Then he’ll explain UFI’s involvement with the lake and its work. We’ll learn about chemistry, robotic monitoring, biology, cleanup and remediation efforts, and projected impacts of the cleanup.

Mike grew up in the Rondout Valley, between the Shawangunk and Catskill mountains, where he developed an interest for things natural. He attended Ulster County Community College and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. During his Masters research he met Dr. Effler, founder and Director of UFI, where he has been working since 1999. Information: 315-428-1905.

Did you know that “inert” ingredients in pesticides can be more toxic than the “active” ingredients?

For more information, check the following web sites:

<http://www.oag.state.ny.us/environment/inerts96.html>

<http://www.herbicideproject.org/Inert%20ingredients.htm>

<http://www.pesticide.org/inertspage.html>

SPRING SCHEDULE

Programs are usually on the fourth Tuesday at 7:30 PM and are free and open to the public, downstairs at University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1085 E. Genesee St. Park and enter on University Ave. Descriptions on page 1. Information 428-1905.

ExCom meetings are for Sierra members only, at the Jamesville Train Station in Jamesville Plaza at the corner of Route 173 and Jamesville Road on third Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. Please come and bring your ideas. Information: 492-4745, unless otherwise listed.

- Apr 18 Outing, Sunday, 2 to 4 PM: Hike in Woodchuck Hill Forest Preserve.
 Apr 21 ExCom meeting
 Apr 27 Program, Tuesday, 7:30 PM. Bill Kappel:
Unique Tully Valley Geology
 May 15 Outing, Saturday, 12 to 3 PM: Garlic mustard weed pulling party at Baltimore Woods.
 May 19 ExCom meeting
 May 25 Program, Tuesday, 7:30 PM. Michael Spada:
Onondaga Lake
 June 13 Outing, Sunday, 12 to 2 PM Clark Reservation: New member picnic.
 June 18 ExCom meeting

OUTINGS DESCRIPTIONS

By Lisa Daly & D. Shanahan

WOODCHUCK HILL

Hike in the Woodchuck Hill Forest Preserve on Sunday April 18. This 59-acre Save the County property is near White Lake. Learn about the ecology of its mixed deciduous hardwood forest and a stream. The bedrock is exposed at various places, revealing fossils — if you look close enough! Information: 492-4745.

Access from Woodchuck Hill Road: the driveway is 1.6 miles East of Maple Drive and 0.5 mile West of NY 92 past Lakeview Drive and Cranberry Lane. There is a cluster of three mailboxes numbered 7209, 7211 and 7213 on the South side of Woodchuck Hill Road next to the driveway. Drive down past the stables on your left and park in front of the STC sign.

BALTIMORE WOODS

Come to Baltimore Woods on Sat May 15, from noon to 3PM to help eradicate invasive species. Centers for Nature Education Naturalist, Patty Weiss, will

HELP WANTED

- ◇ Learn about the postal permit system. Let our expert train you. Commitment is only five days per year, labeling and boxing our Messenger for mailing. Contact: Martha Loew
- ◇ Membership chair: mail surveys to new members each month using pre-addressed labels. Only 50-70 per month. Contact Debby Shanahan.
- ◇ Hike leaders: Share the secrets of your favorite outdoor area with others by volunteering to lead a hike there. Contact Lisa Daly.
- ◇ Do you know of topics or speakers that would be of interest to Iroquois members? Contact Adina Mulliken

explain the problem of invasive species and the program to control garlic mustard in particular. After lunch we will roll up our sleeves and clear some garlic mustard. Bring a sack lunch and dress to work!

Baltimore Woods is located at 4007 Bishop Hill Road in Marcellus.

From Syracuse via 690 (15 minutes from Fairgrounds): Take 690 W to 695 W to Rte 5 W (to Auburn). Exit Rte 5 at Camillus, turn left towards village, right at light in village onto W. Genesee St. Go about 2 blocks and turn left onto Rte 174. Go straight 4 miles into Marcellus. Turn right at stop light and take immediate left onto South St. Follow South about half a mile to "Y" in road, bear right onto Bishop Hill Rd. Baltimore Woods is 1/2 mile up the hill on your right.

NEW MEMBER PICNIC

All members are invited to this social event at Clark Reservation on Sunday June 13, noon to 2PM. Welcome new members and catch up with old friends. Bring a dish to pass. Prizes and other surprises are planned.

Clark Reservation State Park is located at 6105 East Seneca Turnpike in Jamesville.

From Syracuse: Rte 481 south to Jamesville exit. Follow Jamesville Rd to Rte 173. Take Rte 173 west 1.25 miles to park entrance.

From Buffalo-Rochester: I-90 east to exit 34A. Continue with directions from Syracuse

From NYC/Albany: I-90 west to exit 34A. Continue with directions from Syracuse

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

For those of you who hope this is my last RRR (resident red report), it could be. Latest news is that when the snow melted all those piles of spruce cones were still there but about half had changed into piles of cone debris. They all did turn brown and delicious still ready for another under the snow lunch. So it did put away enough — perhaps exceeding the Ant in putting the Grasshopper to shame.

New observation: a pile of sticks near the cache of cones — sort of like a beaver house. Perhaps the center of living? Anyway RRR continues to patrol the stash, striking fear into the gray squirrels.

Last weekend I traveled to New York City for a State Chapter meeting. The Atlantic Chapter ExCom meets

four times a year, with representatives from each of the 11 groups, in proportion to the membership size. All members are welcome, so if anyone would like to attend, ride with me. The only expense will be lunch — always \$10 and lots of vegetarian food. This past week was vegan and delicious. Next meeting is June 12 at Hudson, NY. Think about it.

Spring and daylight savings are officially here, so I hope you will get out and enjoy the spaces we are trying to save. Look out for those RR's.

For the earth and all its critters, or will it be Mars, and then where is our Noah?

Martha Holly Loew

CONSERVATION REPORT

By Vicki Baker

As the recognition of Earth Day approaches, it becomes increasingly important to recognize that April 22 is more about conservation than just picking up litter. Important issues to work on:

Support for the Bigger Better Bottle Bill;

- √ Doubling home composting efforts;
- √ Educating everybody about the hazards of pesticides;
- √ Reducing energy use;
- √ Conserving water-not just when there is a break in the water main;
- √ Opposing the classification of garbage incinerators as "renewable energy" sources;
- √ Establishing a Syracuse Habitat for Humanity "ReStore" for leftover building materials.

For more information on any of these topics, please contact me at 469-5347. We can use your help.

ALTERNATIVES TO PESTICIDES

These hints are taken from various gardening articles, Audubon handouts, and Dr. Miles Bader's *21st Century Reference Guide to Cooking Secrets and Helpful Household Hints*.

CRAWLIES

- Plain Water: a strong spray will dislodge and drown aphids, caterpillars and spider mites.
- Soap or detergent sprays: 2 TBSP dishwashing liquid to 1 gallon water.
- Whitefly: organic horticultural oil spray.
- Plant marigolds in your vegetable garden.
- Mosquito repellent: 1 TBSP of pure vanilla extract with 1 cup of cool water. Spray on skin.
- Flying insects: put basil in muslin bag around house or keep a few basil plants around your home.
- Crawling insects: bay leaves in jars around kitchen or where there is a problem.
- Ticks and fleas: crush sage to a powder and rub on pet's skin-brush off after 20 minutes. Put one or two drops of lavender oil on pet bed.
- Rodents: peppermint oil on a cotton ball in trouble area.

WEEDS ETC.

- Powdery mildew: 1 TBSP baking soda to 1 gallon water plus a few drops of soap.
- Patio weed killer: combine 1 gallon vinegar, 1 cup salt, 8 drops of liquid detergent in a 2 gallon pail.
- Weed killer: 1 ounce white vinegar, 1 ounce gin and 8 ounces water.
- Pre-emergent weed control: corn gluten.
- Mow the lawn 2 to 3 inches high.

MAY 15 BEACH CLEANUP

By Rich Slingerland

Join us on May 15 to help clean up the Lakeview marsh and beach complex, which is a system of marshes, ponds, creeks, and barrier sand beaches on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. This area is unique and must be kept clean for the enjoyment of visitors. For history buffs: a battle was fought at S. Sandy Creek near the Rt. 3 bridge during the war of 1812. A short description of the battle is at the boat launch.

Directions to Eastern Shore of Lake Ontario from Syracuse: Take I-81 north to Pulaski, exit on Rt. 13. Go west 5 miles to junction of Rt. 3. Turn right and go north 10 miles for Lakeview Marsh.

We work under the leadership of NYS Forest Rangers with the support of volunteers from Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK), Sierra Club and the Canoe Club. There are 3 parts:

- 1 Beach Cleanup led by Dave Larabee — Meet at 10:00 AM at Southwick State Park. Go to the end of the campground on the beach and find Dave.
- 2 Led by Harold Guay from Canoe Club — Meet at 11:00 AM at NYS boat launch on Montario Point Rd, which is off NYS Rt 3, three miles north of Sandy Pond. You must have a canoe or kayak. Call Harold for information: 446-2712.
- 3 Led by Marc Baker from ADK — Meet at NYS canoe launch at Rt 3 and S. Sandy Creek, which is 2 miles north of Montario Point Rd. You must have your own watercraft. Call Marc at 788-1566 for meeting time.

IROQUOIS GROUP ISSUES & PRIORITIES FOR THIS YEAR

Every year the Sierra Iroquois Group Executive Committee decides what issues it will focus on. Then we try to educate our members about the issues and hope they will actively support Sierra's position locally or will write to their elected officials in support of Sierra's positions. This year's priorities include:

- **Bigger, Better Bottle Bill** will improve recycling, litter control, and put money in the state budget for environmental needs.
- We do not want trash to be declared a "renewable energy source" by the Public Service Commission.
- Continue to support efforts to restore Onondaga Creek and protect it from Combined Sewer Overflows.

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