



# IROQUOIS MESSENGER

## IROQUOIS GROUP INFORMATION

SIERRA CLUB – IROQUOIS GROUP  
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[SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET](mailto:SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET)  
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM-

## ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Following on the success of last year's Forum, Sierra Club and People's Environmental Network of New York will convene again on

Wednesday, May 31  
6 to 9 PM

*You have insulated and you turn off the lights and computers. You use energy efficient appliances and florescent bulbs. Could your next step be solar power? Yes! Even in Central New York.*

## CATCHING THE SUN

Dr. Gay E. Canough, President of ETM Solar Works will be the speaker for the evening. ETM specializes in solar energy systems for residential and commercial properties and has been installing them locally for 17 years.

University United Methodist Church  
1085 E. Genesee Street  
Syracuse, NY

### Forum Schedule

6:00 — set up tables  
6:15 — networking and refreshments  
7:00 — speaker **Dr. Gay E. Canough**  
8:00 — networking and questions  
8:30 — take down tables for 9:00 PM close.

Space is free but limited, so RSVP by May 15, to reserve a table (3'x8' - no power source) for your organization. Individual RSVP also accepted.  
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FORUM — PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078

## ANTARCTICA CRUISE

RHEA JEZER, PH.D

Danny and I returned from visiting the bottom of the earth, where the sun didn't set. We decided to travel to see Antarctica before Global Warming melts too much of the ice shelf. Now we could see that it is taking its toll.

We had the longest trip to take a trip - five days. We flew from Syracuse to Atlanta, then overnight to Santiago, Chile (weather in the 80s - great start), and then to Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. After exploring a National Park we boarded the ship Explorer II, where we were homed for 11 days.

We joined almost 200 other rather adventurous passengers and an equal number of staff for our voyage, with the ever-present albatrosses and petrels of many varieties following our ship. We traveled for a day to Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands, and then headed south toward the Antarctica through the Drake Passage, through Antarctic convergence. We hit a large storm — normal where three oceans converge with no land masses compromising the flow — with gale force winds, and huge waves. About a third of the passengers and crew were sick. We were fine, however.

On ship were about a dozen faculty; we attended four or five lectures a day, pretty much every day. Five days were spent boarding zodiacs and making landings on several islands and the peninsula, visiting penguin colonies of upward of 300,000 penguins and their chicks, who seemed to ignore our presence and just walk around us as they busily did their chores. We mainly visited gentoo, adelic and chinstrap penguin colonies. Our zodiacs zigzagged around lines of brash ice as well as icebergs, with seals and pups (wedell, crabeater, leopard, elephant and fur seals) loafing around on them. We heard "calving" ice breaking off of icebergs and saw nesting birds, like the blue-eyed shags (cormorants), thrush, oystercatchers and ducks. We attempted a brief "swim" in our bathing suits in Deception Island, the centre of a flooded volcanic crater or caldera, with geothermal heated waters. Yes, the water was warm, but changing to a bathing suit in the absolutely freezing temperatures to go in, and returning on a zodiac to the ship, was quite an experience we hope not to duplicate.

We were often called away from dinner or a lecture when a pilot, humpback, minke, fin or southern right whale was sighted. Sightings took precedence over any-

thing else on the ship. We also visited several scientific stations, including the American Palmer Station, where one of the faculty spends much time doing research.

The Drake passage coming back was calm, and it took us 30 hours of airport and flying time to return home. Although the time difference was only three hours, sleeping on planes and hanging around airports is most exhausting.

To the question we keep being asked, "where next?" our answer is - to be determined. Hard to beat the bottom of the earth for adventure. We are committed to experiencing and exploring as many places that we can on this planet, which, despite its misuse by its inhabitants, still holds beauty and fascination.

## BOOK REVIEW

BY ROWENA MALAMUD

### *Prodigal Summer* by Barbara Kingsolver

Open this book, read the first few pages, and you'll be transported instantly to a mountainside in southern Appalachia to spend the summer with a fascinating cast of characters, from a woman forest ranger to feuding farmers, a bounty hunter, and a former city dwelling biologist, turned farm wife. During your stay there you'll find yourself caring deeply about the fully-realized humans, and also the coyotes, moths, and chestnut trees, birds and wildflowers who also live on the mountain.

Kingsolver is a master of lucid, beautiful prose and, while never for an instant preaching about ecology, she manages to leave you, as you finish the last page, with a profound respect for the diversity of nature and our role in preserving it.

It's one of my favorite books and it seems to me to be a perfect read for those of us who, by being members of the Sierra Club, demonstrate our concern for the fate of our planet.

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY RESTORE

Check out Habitat for Humanity ReStore on 308 Otisco St for "recycling on steroids." They take items that ordinary charity thrift stores can't. Donate usable building materials, and buy those you need. 374-9054 or 475-9172

## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

When I look at the physical size of the Iroquois group — north to Watertown, Potsdam, east to Little Falls, south to Binghamton, west to Rochester — I realize that many members might feel abandoned because they can't participate in activities.

I do not have a physical solution, but if you are in the outlying regions, here are a couple of suggestions:

1. Write to me or email the Messenger about events of environmental interest in your area. Good news, bad news, suggestions or calls for help. We can put you in touch with other members in your area to join forces on an issue, or to get acquainted.

2. We have a political "alert" list you might like to join. It reminds you to ask representatives to support or reject legislation based on environmental considerations. We are currently sending information on the "Bigger Better Bottle Bill," on improvements to wetlands regulation, and on New York's inaction in selecting new voting machines. E-mail Linda DeStefano <linpar@acmgfcu.net> put "legislative alert" in subject line.

For those who used to read my Resident Red squirrel tales: RR has survived the winter and is having lunch dates with a chipmunk under the birdfeeder.

For the earth and all its critters,  
Martha Holly Loew

## IS THE WALK CANCELLED?

It's disappointing to arrive someplace and find that an event was cancelled. That's why we don't cancel scheduled Sierra Club activities. We'd like to have that option, however, and we'd like to tell members about activities that we plan after the Messenger comes out. Now we can...

We've set up a Yahoo Group called **IroquoisSierra Club**. If you join, you will receive cancellation notices and reminders about upcoming events. That's it. No glut of emails, no spam. Only the list owner and moderator can post messages, so there will be 5 or 6 a month. Join the group by sending an email to IroquoisSierraClub-subscribe@yahoo.com. No need for a subject. You can add a personal message to us — or not. We'd like to enlarge the community of active members and hope that better communication will achieve that goal.

*Continued from page 4*

the comparative numbers of deposit and non-deposit bottles that we collect. This beautiful spot will make the work a pleasure. Join us. Rich: 298-3130.

### LABRADOR POND — JUNE 11

Take a walk on the boardwalk, Sunday at 2PM and identify trees and plants in this DEC "Unique Area." Learn why this wetland has such diverse vegetation.

**From the north** — Take I-81 south to XT 14 at Tully. Turn east onto NYS Rte 80, and drive for about 3.5 miles to Apulia and NY 91. Turn right onto 91 S, and drive about 4 miles. Turn right onto a dirt road at the DEC sign and left onto the parking lot road.

**From the south** — Take I-81 north to XT 11 at Cortland. From there, turn onto NYS Rte 13 N, and drive for about 11 miles to Truxton and NY 91. Turn left onto 91 N, and drive for about 5 miles. Turn left onto a dirt road at the DEC sign and left onto the parking lot road.

### FREEDOM LAWN IN SPRING

It's time to start planning your new Freedom Lawn. That grassy space you covered with newspaper (or whatever) last fall needs a plan with some great native plants, compost and mulch.

For the lawn that is left, check for the corn-based pre-emergent weed treatment, found in most feed stores. It will help appease those near you who want a weedless lawn and keep everyone healthy!

More info: [www.hgcny.org](http://www.hgcny.org)

### People for Animal Rights

Present

Naturalist Matt Perry

Sanctuary for Native

Animals & Plants

Wednesday April 19 at 6:45 PM

Solvay Public library

615 Woods Rd

Info: 488-7877

**Recycle those ink cartridges and cell phones** at any Iroquois gathering. Get them off the street and back in business.

## SPRING SCHEDULE

Indoor and Outdoor Sierra Club educational programs encourage us to Explore, Enjoy and Protect the Planet, and are **free and open to the public.**

**ExCom meetings are for Sierra members only** on second Wednesdays at 7:30 PM, at the Train Station in Jamesville Plaza, corner of Route 173 and Jamesville Road. Come and bring your ideas. 492-4745.

### INDOORS

**Indoor programs** are held the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM, downstairs at University United Methodist Church (UUMC), 1085 E. Genesee St. Park

#### ENERGY IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY – APRIL 21

Just a reminder about the upcoming Energy Symposium at Cazenovia College Information: Rhea Jezer — rjezer@ix.netcom.com

#### GENTLE FARMING – APRIL 26

Free range, cage free, free roaming, humanely raised, organic... What do they mean?

**Harold Brown** will compare food labels and demystify them. He will explain qualifying standards for the labels and how consumers can make informed food-purchasing choices.

Brown was raised on a cattle farm in Michigan and spent half of his life in agriculture. As Outreach Coordinator for Farm Sanctuary, he is coordinating a campaign to encourage farmers to adopt sustainable farming practices.



#### ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM – MAY 31

Information is on page 1.

## OUTDOORS

**Outdoor programs** are usually on Sundays at 2 PM at interesting locations in the Iroquois Group area. Information and cancellations: 315-492-4745.

#### MASON HILL – APRIL 9

Join us on at 2:00PM for a walk in one of the 2005 STC acquisitions. There should be enough "Spring" in the air to see a good collection of early wildflowers. We'll have experts to help identify them. Mason hill has a beautiful wooded ravine and pristine stream. There will be different routes for hiking and family walking.

From Syracuse head South on 81 to LaFayette exit. Drive East on Rt. 20 for 2 miles, turn left on Apulia Rd. Drive for 2 miles, turn left on Eager Rd. Third house on the right says "Earle/2886" on mailbox. Park on tennis court, just up from house driveway.

From Jamesville head South on Apulia Rd. about 8 miles. Right on Eager Rd. Continue as above.

#### BEACH CLEANUP – MAY 22

On Saturday we head out, for the annual clean-up of the beach at Lakeview marsh on the eastern shore of Lake Ontario. Meet at 10:00 AM at Southwick State Park to work with volunteers from Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) and the Canoe Club. Dave Larabee and Rich Slingerland will be our leaders.

From Syracuse: Take I-81 N to Pulaski, exit on Rt. 13. Go west 5 miles to junction of Rt. 3. Turn right and go north 10 miles to Lakeview Marsh (wildlife management area). Go to the end of the campground on the beach and find Dave. Bags will be furnished. Wear gloves and dress for the weather.

After the cleanup we'll have bag lunch at the picnic tables and discuss the value of deposits on bottles using

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