



SIERRA  
CLUB  
FOUNDED 1892

# Iroquois Messenger

## IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACTS

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*Did you know energy  
from one recycled alumi-  
num can will run a TV  
set for three hours?*

## NEW MEMBER PICNIC — JUNE 13

Come join us as new members meet old ones at this special social event at Clark Reservation on Sunday June 13, at 1PM (NOTE: time change since the last notice). Meet at the Pavilion near the parking lot *rain or shine*.

Welcome new members and catch up with old friends. Find out how you can become involved and help out in your Sierra Club Group. Bring a dish to pass and your own plates and utensils. We'll hike one of the many trails, look at the unique vegetation and gaze out over the spectacular overlooks above the lake.

Clark Reservation State Park is located on Rte 173 (East Seneca Turnpike) in Jamesville. Remember, there will be some extra traffic in Jamesville because of the Balloon Festival.

From Syracuse: Rte 481 south to Jamesville exit. Follow Jamesville Rd to Rte 173. Take Rte 173 west 1.2 miles to park entrance.

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

From Albany and points east: I-90 west to exit 34A. Continue with directions from Syracuse.

## JEWELS OF ONONDAGA — JUNE 22

Emeralds, diamonds and pearls: that's how the little-known gems in Onondaga and Oswego Counties are classified by Save-the-County Land Trust (STC). Find out how STC has been growing for the last 28 years, when Richard Smardon, President of STC gives a slide show about the "jewel collection." The show: "2000 acres by 2000" tells how the major properties held by STC were acquired as well their natural attributes and major management challenges. See slides of Baltimore Woods, Old Fly Marsh, Camillus Valley, Woodchuck Hill Road, Heron Marsh, High Hickory, Fen at Silver Lake, as well as on-going stewardship projects.

Richard C. Smardon is Chair and Professor with the Faculty of Environmental Studies at the School of Forestry, Director of the Randolph G. Pack Environmental Institute and Co-director of the Great Lakes Research Consortium — the list goes on... He has also edited and written several

*(Continued on page2)*

## SUMMER 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.

- June 13 Picnic. Sunday, 1PM. Welcome New Members at Clark Reservation rain or shine. See page 1  
 June 16 ExCom meeting  
 June 22 Program. Tuesday, 7:30PM — Rick Smardon: *Jewels of Onondaga County*.  
 Aug 3 Special Event. Sunday, 4PM to sunset — Help out at Corporate Challenge in Onondaga Park. See page 2

### JEWELS OF ONONDAGA *continued*

books. Although his broad expertise in landscape, resource and wetland law and management might suggest a cold technician, Rick talks about Central New York with enthusiasm and a genuine love of the land.

## DRINK WATER ON TAP

By Martha Loew

Drinking tap water rather than purchasing bottled water benefits both you and the environment. So, unless your tap water is not drinkable even when filtered, fill up your bottle at the tap. Here's why:

- Bottled water costs up to 1,000 times more than tap — even more than gasoline.
- NRDC found pesticides and possible carcinogens in one fifth of tested bottled waters.
- Producing plastic for bottles makes toxic air emissions.
- Producing one kilogram of plastic for water bottles requires 17.5 kilograms of water.
- Pumping a spring for bottled water can lower the surrounding water table.
- Plastic bottles litter streams and other places.
- The bottled water industry makes its money by decimating water supplies — water is a basic human right.

## CORPORATE CHALLENGE RACE

Tuesday, August 3 is the date of a great service project at one of the most fun, challenging and meaningful events of the season. Help the Iroquois Group of the Sierra Club garner much needed funds (\$500) as you help recycle beverage containers emptied by thirsty runners. Interested? Here are the basics:

**Who:** The Syracuse Chargers and JP Morgan Chase

**What:** Very Large Road Race

**Where:** Onondaga Lake Park, near Griffin Stadium

**When:** Tues. August 3 in the afternoon.

**More:** The Syracuse Corporate Challenge is part of a national series of road races, promoting health and fitness, while raising money for local charities. This race will benefit the Joslin Diabetes Center at University Hospital. The race is unique because runners don't compete individually, but as members of corporate teams.

There will be a total of about 7,000 people participating, plus supporters and families, totaling about 12,000 people. The scene has been described as a "tent city" in which hundreds of teams host staging areas picnics and parties.

Over the years Don Hughes and others have made heroic efforts at recycling, but they need more volunteers. Of approximately 20,000 containers brought to the park, only 10,000 were recycled last year. With the help of the Sierra Club and the Syracuse Peace Council, the Chargers hope to significantly improve upon past efforts. But we need *your* help to make this a success.

Sierra Club will gain exposure from the recycling information cards we will be distributing, plus we'll be there. Past volunteers say that it is a fun way to meet people and to participate in a significant local event.

**Sierra Club responsibilities** — The volunteers will work from 4:30 to sundown to:

- Deliver Equipment to each of approximately 230 corporate tents — bags, OCRA containers, etc.
- Distribute Information from tent to tent, making sure everyone knows how to dispose of their garbage and recyclables properly.
- Check to make sure people are sorting their waste properly and correct them where they are not.

Syracuse Peace Council volunteers will handle the actual sorting of the containers.

Contact Lisa to sign up: 315-428-1384, ldaly@yahoo.com

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Tree Huggers,

Did you know that sleep is possible on a plane, a train, but Not on a bus?! On April 24 at midnight, I boarded a bus in Syracuse and arrived at Washington DC at 7 AM. Yes, I attended the March for Women's Rights on the Mall.

I had never been on a march like that, though most of my friends have been doing it since the 60's and 70's. It was time to stand up and be counted. A great decision, as it was the biggest march ever: 1.15 million and still counting. As one who is not a crowd lover it was a strange thing to do. But the energy, the excitement, and the sense of purpose were invigorating.

We had been instructed that politics were not allowed — something to do with the march permit — but the rules were stretched. Slogans, banners, even the speakers all focused on the obvious goal — which I cannot mention. The chants and slogans were amazing. My favorite: "If men got pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament." Many others were not printable.

Speakers included Madeline Albright, Whoopi Goldberg, Hillary Clinton, and Carl Pope. All were seen and heard on huge TV screens throughout the Mall.

The organization was unreal. Every detail was beautifully planned. Of course, it was really not a march, more like a slow shuffle, or a huge traffic jam. It passed by the White house lawn, — lots of guards, no Bush waving — and ended at the court house steps, supposedly 4:00, but more like 6:00PM. Every one of the

continental 48 states was represented, a. At one time I was behind a large Texas delegation carrying a big Texas flag. All across the country participants are meeting on a regular basis, the message being to get voters registered and to the polls.

The huge metro station was dangerously full. Back on the bus, and home at 1:00 AM. Figured about 36 hours awake, most on my feet. The next day was pretty much a lost one.

Now to make myself unpopular: I'm in favor of the high gas prices. As you know I travel to London often, where gas is \$5.45 per gallon. Most Brits drive small hatchbacks. The public transportation system can take you to a lot of places, but people also walk great distances. It is sad that only money can force us to make responsible decisions for the environment. Remember, if we *really strive* for independence from foreign energy sources, many of our battles to save nature can also be won. How about increased tax on gas, earmarked to build public transportation systems, not highways.

Speaking of highways, the Better World Club provides road services like AAA, except, unlike AAA, they do not lobby for more roads. BWC also provides emergency assistance for bicycles.

[www.betterworldclub.com](http://www.betterworldclub.com)

Enjoy our great weather. It is great to see so many at our meetings and walks. See you in June.

For the Earth and All its Critters.

Martha Holly Loew

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*Did you know that the Atlantic Chapter of Sierra Club has a Food and Farm Committee to educate people about factory farms in NY? Ask Yvonne 315-446-8622 or Linda 315-488-2140 for a free copy of the "Stop Factory Farming and Protect Rural NY!"*

### *Did you know?*

- ✓ *Using a ton of recycled paper, instead of virgin, saves 380 gallons of oil and 17 trees.*
- ✓ *Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to run a 100 watt bulb for four hours.*
- ✓ *It takes five recycled 2-liter plastic bottles to make a square foot of carpet.*

## ROBBIE COX AT SU

BY ADINA MULLIKEN

Robbie Cox, member and past President of the Sierra Club Board of Directors, and Professor of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina, spoke at Syracuse University on April 1. The following day, he met with a class of ESF students and two Iroquois Group Sierra Club members.

Cox's talk, titled "How Healthy is the Public Debate Over the Environment in the Bush Era?" was engaging and thought-provoking. Cox is particularly interested in rhetorical packaging of controversial policies, noting frequent use of the words "safer," "cleaner," "healthier," and "common sense."

Cox expressed his concern about several trends: diminishing opportunities for public input, "suppression of evidence," and repackaging of scientific results in a way that supports the Bush administration's point of view. For example, the editing of an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) report omitted the original study, which mentioned evidence of increasing global temperatures, and substituted a study partly financed by the American Petroleum Institute. In response, the EPA left out the entire global warming section of the report.

Cox noted that the Sierra Club has invoked the Freedom of Information Act in order to get records regarding the Bush administration's activities, including papers related to the current Supreme Court case involving Vice President Cheney and formulation of environmental policy.

Cox also commented on decreased opportunities for public input into environmental impact statements. Recently the U.S. Forest Service eliminated the opportunity for public comment by postcard.

Cox told a story of photographer Subhankar Banerjee's exhibit of photographs of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that was intended by the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History for display in a main area of the museum. Senator Barbara Boxer held up one of the photographs during a debate in Congress about drilling in the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The Smithsonian subsequently moved the exhibit to a lower hallway and insisted that mention of the Smithsonian be removed from reprints of Banerjee's book *Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land* (Seattle: Mountaineers Books, 2003).

Cox mentioned several resources: a book by Sierra Club Executive Director, Carl Pope, entitled *Strategic Ignorance: Why the Bush Administration is Recklessly Destroying a Century of Environmental Progress* (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 2004) and two web sites: <http://www.nrdc.org/bushrecord> and [www.strategicignorance.org](http://www.strategicignorance.org).

Cox is an engaging speaker, with thought-provoking messages for us all.

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