



# IROQUOIS MESSENGER

## LOWVILLE MANURE SPILL

### IROQUOIS GROUP CONTACTS SIERRA CLUB – IROQUOIS GROUP PO BOX 182 JAMESVILLE, NY 13078

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<http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm>

**SUBMIT MESSENGER ARTICLES TO:  
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET  
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH 1M-**

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Denise M. Sheehan said that DEC has commenced enforcement action against Marks Dairy Farm, Inc. in Lowville, Lewis County for a massive liquid manure spill that occurred at the facility on August 10, 2005. DEC claims to take spills seriously and will take steps to see that this one won't recur. There is no word, however, whether penalties have actually been invoked or if the spill has been cleaned up.

The spill occurred when several million gallons of manure being stored there emptied into an adjacent field and flowed through a drainage ditch into the Black River, where about 200,000 to 250,000 fish were killed.

DEC worked with other state and local departments to help investigate the circumstances of the spill, count the fish killed, monitor the water quality and dilute the manure plume. Water samples show some recovery in the river's overall water quality since the spill occurred. DEC's investigation shows that enough young fish and macro-invertebrates survived the spill to keep the ecological basis for that stretch of the river's food chain intact.

There are 620 permitted Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) statewide. In 1999, New York was one of the first states to develop a CAFO permitting program. The permit contains conditions on waste control and management, and it requires submission of a plan for manure storage such as volume limits, location, erosion control, lining standards and structural design standards.

Each farm must submit an annual report to DEC. Extensive changes to the facility or the plan, suspected violations of the permit, or public complaints are inspected and reviewed by DEC. Like many government programs, however, the actual protection of public health and the environment depend on public awareness and action.

## EX-COM BALLOT

_____ Martha Loew	_____ Adina Mulliken
_____ Rhea Jezer	_____ Richard Slingerland
_____ Lisa Daly	_____ Linda DeStefano

Vote for six. ExCom terms are 2 years. Rebecca Paul, Tasha Cooper, David Kapell, Martin Sage and Deborah Shanahan have one more year remaining. Mail to: Iroquois Group, Sierra Club, PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIGEST

### LOCAL

#### HONEYWELL AT ONONDAGA LAKE

Honeywell is working on the cleanup of Onondaga Lake as it begins collecting nearly 1,000 water and sediment samples over the next few months as part of the rigorous scientific planning necessary for future cleanup activities. "New data will be used in the implementation of the remediation plan to make sure that the remedy protects human health and the environment for the future," said Honeywell Syracuse Remediation Director John McAuliffe.

Construction is underway on a new groundwater treatment facility in Geddes that will prevent contaminated groundwater from entering the lake, along with the cleanup and removal of contaminated soil at the former Linden Chemicals and Processing (LCP) plant property on Bridge Street.

Visit [www.onondaga-lake-initiatives.com](http://www.onondaga-lake-initiatives.com), call Honeywell: 315-431-4443.

### STATE

#### CAFO'S IN NEW YORK

For those of you who were intrigued and depressed by Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg's educational forum on Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's) in May and for those of you who missed it, read the report *The Wasting of Rural New York State: Factory Farms and Public Health*. Yvonne participated in research and other aspects of the project, which was produced by the Citizens' Environmental Coalition and Sierra Club. Congratulations, Yvonne! To read or download the report, go to [www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm](http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm) and click on "conservation."

#### HAWAII BOTTLE BILL TRUMPS NY

According to Hawaii Tribune Herald, Hawaiians have recycled nearly two out of every three eligible beverage containers since Hawaii's "bottle bill" took effect Jan. 1. Some 30,125,411 aluminum, plastic and glass bottles and cans have been redeemed for a nickel apiece, returning roughly \$1.5 million to customers during the first half of the year, said Eileen O'Hora-Weir, the county recycling coordinator.

Here in New York thanks to two years of campaigning by Sierra, NYPIRG and other groups the "BBBB" was pushed through several committees by phone calls and letters until it finally reached the assembly floor where it passed 98 to 40. Unfortunately, Senator Bruno assured its death by saying "It's one of the dumbest things I've ever heard of. We're going to make rubbish carriers out of everybody that goes shopping. It's just nonsense. It's just pandering to the greenies."

But plans are under way to have another go at it, details of which will be in the next Messenger. The show is not over, even if Bruno sang.

## CAMPAIGN TRAINING

Sierra Club held a public education campaign training session August 26-28 in Utica at the Hotel Utica that focused on volunteer recruitment, leadership development and media methods.

Skilled Sierra trainers, Annie Leary, and Megan Lewis ran the event with remarkable energy and experience, crushing a lot of information into a short period. We'll be spreading ideas like:

- grassroots campaigns
- engaging the public by phone banks
- recruiting volunteers door-to-door, at forums
- tabling at all open events
- giving new volunteers jobs immediately.

You can get the Grass Roots Training Manual from legislative director John Stouffer, <[john.stouffer@verizon.net](mailto:john.stouffer@verizon.net)> or 518-4236-9144.

We had other get-togethers over refreshments on both evenings. They're an important part of such an event as the exchange of ideas across the state is half of the value. Also we had a good time! We all gave this experience a positive rating and hope that more will be planned.

A footnote: The Hotel is a more elegant version of the Hotel Syracuse that was saved and restored by two residents four years ago. Staying at this grand old building was a high point, showing what we all hope to happen with our Hotel Syracuse.

## VOTING MACHINES

LENORE RAPALSKI

When the New York Legislature via the Help America Vote Act turned voting machine replacement over to the counties, the U.S. League of Women Voters studied the new systems: Direct Recording Electronic (DRE) and paper ballot/optical scanner. They determined that the paper ballot/optical scanner accompanied by a federally certified ballot marker for the disabled would be the more accurate, secure, recountable and accessible system.

With Optical Scanners, the paper ballots are the official ballots, which can be recounted if necessary. Precinct officials are still in charge of the voting booth. With direct electronic voting machines, problems in the voting booth have to be solved by vendor technicians, putting the voting process in the hands of the corporations that sell them. Fewer optical scanners need to be purchased than the more expensive and fragile DRE's. Major voting machine manufacturers make both systems but are promoting only the more expensive DREs.

See *Will Your Vote Count?* at [www.nyvv.org](http://www.nyvv.org). The LWV site is [www.lwvny.org](http://www.lwvny.org).

Onondaga's Lever Voting Machines must be replaced by the 2006 General Election. There is still time to contact your elected representatives at the state and county levels to discuss your concerns.

## 2006 Sierra Calendars

Order Calendars Now — Save!  
Call Betsey Keck at 315-637-3446

See the photo ad in next *Messenger* or visit  
<http://www.sierraclub.org/books/calendars/>

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*Pay Only \$10 at any Sierra Event*

## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Corporate Challenge recycling effort August 2. It was a smashing success! We recycled an enormous amount of materials and earned a significant donation to our local group. Thanks so much to all who participated.

Lisa Daly  
Myra Daly  
Luann DeFelice  
Joel Dwyer  
Angelo Gaetano  
Bill Goodwin  
David Gruzca  
David Horacek

Don Hughes  
Craig LaLonde  
Adina Mulliken  
Hunter Pagant  
John Pellman  
Debby Shanahan  
Ruth Yanai

## NAEF SCHOLARSHIP

How does setting out clean, separated recyclables contribute to the overall success of recycling? Two \$500 scholarships will be awarded this fall to the winners of a 1000-word essay contest that explores this question.

Mark Naef, President of Naef Recycling LLC and a long term recycling activist knows that is important for the public to understand that the small things that they do or don't do with their bins can significantly impact massive industrial plants.

One scholarship will go to a high-school senior from Syracuse and one to any high-school senior from Onondaga, Oswego, Delaware or Schoharie counties.

Call 315-463-7266 for information and rules about the contest.

## GREEN BUILDINGS

Let's highlight some of the "Green Buildings" in the *Iroquois Messenger* circulation area: municipal buildings, schools, homes, dog houses (?). Send us addresses, photos or anecdotes. Mail to: Iroquois Group, Sierra Club, PO Box 182, Jamesville, NY 13078.

*FALL SCHEDULE CONTINUED*

**CLARK RESERVATION — OCTOBER 30**

One of the most rugged State Parks will become wheelchair accessible. Meet at the Nature Center on Sunday at 2PM to preview the proposed special trail.

# FALL 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 and enter on University Ave. Information 492-4745.

### COUNTING VOTES: 2+2=5 – SEPTEMBER 28

New York must change its voting machines by 2006. The purchasing decision falls to the counties. What are the options? **Bo Lipari** will tell us. Bo, a computer professional for many years, retired early to campaign for voting integrity and secure voting machines. As director of New Yorkers for Verified Voting <www.nyvv.org>, he educates the public and government officials about the security holes in direct recording electronic voting machines and the advantages of paper ballots marked by hand and counted by precinct-based optical scanners. UUMC, 7:30PM.

Oct 11 TUESDAY, 7:30 PM ExCom

### FARMER BROWN – OCTOBER 12

**Harold Brown** will discuss “Plant-based versus Animal-based Agriculture: Sustainable Farming in the 21st Century” on Wednesday, October 12 at 7PM at the Liverpool Public Library, 310 Tulip St, village of Liverpool.

Featured in the video *Peaceable Kingdom*, the former cattle farmer, was transformed when he met a bovine

resident of Farm Sanctuary (Watkins Glen, NY) and could no longer regard cattle as a commodity.

Sponsored by **People for Animal Rights**. Vegan snacks. 488-7877, linpar@acmgfcu.net <askfarmerbrown.org>

Oct 26 Wednesday, 7:30PM. TBA. Martha 492-4745

Nov 30 Wednesday, 7:30PM. TBA. Martha 492-4745

## OUTDOORS

**Outdoor programs** are usually on Sundays at 2 PM at interesting locations in the Iroquois Group area. Information and cancellations: 699-8569

### GRINDSTONE FARM TOUR – OCTOBER 2

Grindstone Farm grows over 125 varieties of certified organic fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. Organic agricultural management allows only natural enrichment of the soil life — no synthetic chemicals or pesticides — using companion planting, crop rotation, manures, composts, mulches and cover crops. Grindstone Farm also uses Integrated Pest Management.

Purchased in 1981 by Richard de Graff, the farm’s 150 acres had been used primarily as hay fields. In 1988 the blueberries were organically certified, as were all fields and crops by 1991. Grindstone serves mainly the Central New York region through the Community Supported Agriculture Farm Membership Program.

Take I-81 north to Exit 35, Tinker Tavern Road (County Rte 28). At end of ramp, turn right (east). Go 1/2 mile. Grindstone Farm is on the left. Meet at 11AM for a 2-hour tour. Lunch at 1PM. Bring your own for an indoor or outdoor picnic.

Contact Adina Mulliken: 315-428-1905, pepperballmeow@yahoo.com. **Heavy rain may cancel.**

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