



IROQUOIS MESSENGER

IROQUOIS GROUP INFORMATION

SIERRA CLUB – IROQUOIS GROUP
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<http://www.newyork.sierraclub.org/iroquois/index.htm>

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IROQUOIS MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED
FEBRUARY, APRIL, JUNE, SEPTEMBER,
& NOVEMBER. SUBMIT ARTICLES BY
THE 20TH OF THE PRECEEDING MONTH:
SIERRA.DEB@VERIZON.NET
SUBJECT LINE MUST BEGIN WITH IM-

SIERRA SUMMIT REVIEW

FROM MARTHA

Unsure that “a bunch of tree-huggers” could run such an affair I almost didn’t go to the Summit, but decided to chance it. It was amazing: smooth, exciting, beautifully planned! The accommodations and food were excellent. If I had it to do over again, I would go a day earlier and leave a day later.

It felt like a retreat, where 6,000 of us soaked up mutual support to help with our frustrating battle to save the planet. Spirits were so high we must have looked like we were floating.

When Al Gore suddenly appeared as the keynote speaker the effect was immediate. The flooding in New Orleans had freed him from a prior obligation there and allowing for his unscheduled appearance in San Francisco. Unlike in his campaign, this presentation was polished and passionate.

With 160 exhibitors of everything “green,” the only real problem with this event was it was impossible to see it all: cars, food, homes, books clothes, paper, wood, sustainability, recycling. And, of course, everything we used was recycled: paper, food, glass, plastic — with volunteers showing you where to put what!

There are plans for Sierra Summits every two years. I’m already packed

FROM BECKY

Three words describe the 2005 Sierra Summit: excitement, learning and inspiration. From the moment I stepped off the plane in San Francisco until our flight home I spent every moment captivated.

At our dinner with the National Sierra officers, they were extraordinarily welcoming and answered all of my many questions. The next morning Martha and I didn’t believe that Al Gore would be a surprise speaker but we were proved wrong! He intelligently and gracefully put into words my own feelings of frustration about our current president.

The amazement did not stop there. When I was not attending lectures I learned how to rock climb, saw the golden gate bridge and talked to other group leaders about their mission.

Attending the Summit was a trip of a lifetime. It was an indescribable and moving feeling to be surrounded by hundreds of people with beliefs similar to mine. I am thankful for the opportunity to attend and can’t wait till the next one!

FREEDOM LAWN

Most people have lawns, but not the same types of lawns. Here are three ways to prepare them for winter.

Industrial Lawn — The perfect lawn that's the envy of the neighborhood no matter what. Apply pesticides to kill weeds (and other living things), dethatch (since chemicals killed the earthworms that would do the job for you), and rake and dispose of fall leaves (buy chemical fertilizers to replace discarded nutrients)

Good-Enough Lawn — A traditional-looking lawn that values kids, pets, and wildlife above turf. Pull objectionable weeds by hand. Run your lawnmower over fall leaves and let them decompose or add them to the compost pile. Mow a little bit lower to help prevent snow mold.

Freedom Lawn — A lawn for those with better ways to spend their time and money. The Big Idea: the plants best suited to each of the many microclimates in your lawn will find their way there. On their own! Ignore it — leaves and all — and see what survives. Something will grow there.

And winter is a good time to cut your lawn — in half! Cover it with thick layers of newspaper and mulch so you can plant more interesting things in the space next spring.

BOTTLED WATER

Take it from the Tap. Bottled water is fine for water emergencies but otherwise it destroys aquifers, fills landfills and pollutes the air. It takes energy to make the bottles, to ship them to be filled and then further to be sold. So just say "no" to bottled water. Download *Bottled Water: Understanding A Social Phenomenon* at www.panda.org/livingwaters/pubs/bottled_water.pdf

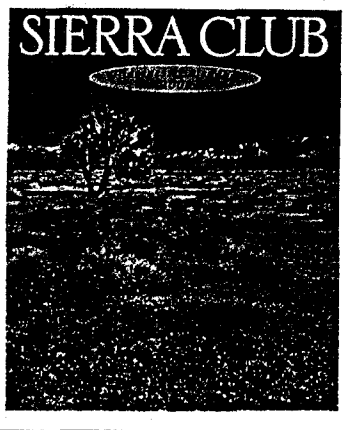
HOME ENERGY

Measure your home's efficiency by going to <energyguide.com> for customized recommendations for cutting your home energy costs.

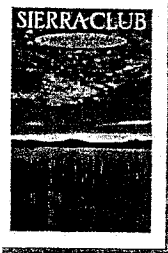
Compare your costs to an average house in your area and to an energy-efficient home at <hes.lbl.gov>. The site also has information such as how the cost per year of 30-year old refrigerator is \$132 but \$59 for a newer one; and that a coffee maker costs \$44 a year. Can you make changes to help your wallet and the planet? Check it out and think about your priorities.

SIERRA CLUB 2006 CALENDARS

Sierra Club 2006 Engagement Calendar—
Week-by-week format, featuring 57 spectacular
photographs and "wire-o" binding.



Sierra Club 2006
Wilderness Wall
Calendar—Spiral
bound, month-by-
month format,
featuring 12 majestic
North American
landscapes.



*Sierra Club Calendars will be available at
Sierra Club events for \$10 each.*

*If you can't attend our events, order from
Calendars c/o Betsey Keck
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ekeck@twcny.rr.com*

*Mail Order prices
Engagement Calendar — \$12
Wall Calendar — \$11
Make checks payable to Sierra Club*



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

2005 OUTDOOR FORAYS

For those of you who wonder what Sierra Club outdoor events are like, two members write about their experiences this year. We'd like these notes to be a regular feature of our winter issue — space permitting. So if you join us for a trip, write a paragraph about it. Information on submitting articles is on page 1.

BEAVER LAKE NATURE CENTER

Twenty-seven Sierra Club members and others enjoyed beautiful weather for a relaxing after work canoe outing at Beaver Lake Nature Center in Baldwinsville on August 24. A naturalist for the Center guided us around the edge of the Lake and talked about the herons, turtles, beavers and other wildlife as well as the history of the Lake and more interesting tidbits. We explored the beaver dams before paddling back to the dock at sunset.

Many of us with no previous canoeing experience now have a new skill. A few folks who have more boating familiarity brought their own canoes or kayaks. With the good turn out, the cost was \$3.25 per person. Children and adults alike had a pleasant evening.

CLARK RESERVATION STATE PARK

Clark Reservation is known for its plant diversity, including the endangered Hart's Tongue Fern. But its rugged terrain makes it available only to the able bodied. On October 30 we hiked the proposed handicapped accessible trail. This trail is incorporated as part of the Mildred Faust Trail, honoring the foremost Central New York botanist, who used Clark Reservation as a classroom. A park naturalist showed us how to identify trees and under-story plants along the trail.

Did you know...

There's a club that doesn't lobby for more highways and includes bicycle service:

<betterworldclub.com>

NON-SIERRA EVENT

The topic at the League of Women Voters' November 10 brown-bag luncheon will be recycling. Meet at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church 5299 Jamesville Road at 11:45AM.

Schedule — Continued from page 4

NY-695 South. Merge onto NY-5 West. Take the exit for Camillus/Warners. Turn right onto Newport Road/CR-36. Turn right onto Devoe Road. Meet at Sim's store.

CHILI & SNOW FEST — FEBRUARY 12

It's becoming an annual event in and out of the home of Rhea and Daniel Jezer at 7426 Song Lake Road, Tully. Meet at 2PM. Explore nature in winter and pick up a few x-country skiing or snow-shoeing tips at one of the most charming small lakes in the area. Then discuss your love of nature and earthly values with like-minded friends while dining on vegetarian fare. Bring a chili or dish to pass RSVP 727-0123

Exit 14 off I-81. Follow signs for Song Mountain Ski area. Turn left at Song Mountain parking lot to 7426 Song Lake Road. Park on the road.

EX-COM BALLOT

Revised November 2005

_____ Martha Loew	_____ Adina Mulliken
_____ Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg	_____ Richard Slingerland
_____ Lisa Daly	_____ Linda DeStefano
_____ Stacey Smith	_____ Rhea Jezer

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.

WINTER 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.

WAL-MART WATCH — NOVEMBER 30

Join us on Wednesday, November 30 at 7:30PM for an educational documentary video about the largest retailer in the world. *Wal-Mart Watch: Low Prices High Cost.* Learn how low pay and employee benefits require workers to rely on Medicaid, food stamps and public housing assistance. We all pay the Wal-Mart tax. Pressuring suppliers for the lowest price also accelerates harmful environmental practices at home and abroad. Discussion afterward. 448-2140 Linda

ExCom — Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 PM

TALKING TRASH — JANUARY 2

What's the future for your trash? Much as we hate it, we continue to make it. Is there a perfect solution? Don Hughes, member of the Board of Directors of OCRRA, environmental chemist and licensed engineer, will explain some of the complexities of waste management. Where does it go: incinerator, landfill or compost?

And what gets tossed: tires, bottles, computer, batteries, leaves... all that stuff you need to get rid of.

ExCom — Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 PM

ExCom — Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 PM

OUTDOORS

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

GREEN LAKES STATE PARK — DECEMBER 4

We're lucky to have 2 rare meromictic lakes in Green Lakes State Park. On Sunday, December 4, at 2PM we'll hike around them and learn why they're important. Meet in the parking lot near the park office, a short distance from the entrance.

Take Exit 5E (Kirkville Rd, east) off I-481. Follow Kirkville, turn right on Fremont Rd, left on NYS 290. Follow signs to Park.

Or, from NYS 5 near Friendly's, turn north onto NYS 257 and follow it to run into NYS 290. Continue east and follow signs to Park.

CAMILLUS CANAL TRAIL — JANUARY 8

Work off your holiday stuffing on Sunday, January 8 at 2PM in Camillus. See the famous 141-foot long aqueduct, visit a lock tender's shanty, and the Sims Store Museum, a replica of a canal side store circa 1850. Learn about canal history, an import part of the past in Central New York. Dress for the weather and plan to snowshoe, ski or walk the canal trail. 492-4745

The park is at 5750 Devoe Road, north of Camillus. Take Exit 6 (Rte 695-Auburn) off 690. Merge onto

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