

City Sierran

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Sierra Club – New York City Group

Winter 2011

Heart of Staten Island Greenbelt Threatened

Kathleen Vorwick



Ohrbach Lake in Pouch Camp

The Staten Island Greenbelt was created in 1984. Pouch Camp, owned by the Greater New York Councils/Boy Scouts of America (GNYCBSA), was seen as a pivotal parcel for the Greenbelt plan. Initially created from public parks, and since augmented by privately and publicly held parcels, the Greenbelt grew through conservation easements, purchases, and transfers among public agencies. Pouch Camp, with approximately 140 acres of forest, streams, remnants of the Wisconsin glacier, kettle ponds, a 20 acre fresh water lake; and many wildlife species, is at a critical juncture of the entire Greenbelt (see map) and has also been on New York State Department of

Conservation's Open Space list of lands prioritized for preservation for decades. However, in November of 2009, the Greater New York Councils announced that, due to their dire financial situation, it was compelled to look at the value and possible sale of all or part of Pouch Camp.

The Councils also own Ten-Mile River Scout Reservation, in Sullivan County, New York, consisting of approximately 12,000 acres and Alpine Scout Reservation in New Jersey, which enjoys protected status. The

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News and Updates

Serve Outdoors NYC

David Veliz, BBTO

This year on Sep. 11, the weather was eerily similar to that of nine years ago. It was a beautiful day. But the differences are of course immeasurable, since the events that we honor and remember every year changed the world, and our lives, forever.

I usually spend every 9/11 remembering the feeling of fear and uncertainty that I felt as ashes fell upon my face, and remembering how the youth at the community programs I coordinated felt lost and unable to verbalize their feelings—I knew they had lost

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Referendum to Expand the ExCom to 15 Members

On September 15, 2010 the NYC Group ExCom approved an amendment of the Group Bylaws to expand the ExCom from nine members to fifteen. If approved by a 2/3 vote of the membership, the first two paragraphs of section 3.1 of the Group Bylaws will be amended to read as follows:

“Subject to the powers of the members as provided by these Bylaws, the management of the affairs and activities of the Group shall be in the hands of an ExCom of fifteen (15) members elected by the Group membership for terms of two years.

“In any election, up to eight (8) members may be elected for full terms, as long as the size of the ExCom does not increase as a result and no fewer than seven (7) terms will expire in any future year. When filling vacancies in unexpired terms by election, longer terms shall be awarded to candidates with more votes. The candidates who win the higher number of votes shall receive any available full terms and the others shall receive the unexpired remainders of the vacated terms.’

If approved by the Group membership, the Atlantic Chapter, and the national Club, this amendment shall take effect at the first regularly scheduled Group ExCom meeting of 2012..

To implement this change, in the Group ExCom election in the final quarter of 2011, there will be eight seats for two-year terms and three seats for one-year terms, as well as one-year terms to fill any vacancies. The eight candidates who win the higher number of votes shall receive the two-year terms and the other winners shall receive the one-year terms.

PRO: STATEMENT FOR PROPOSAL

Previous to the year 2000, there were 18 members on the NYC Group Executive Committee, with 9 members elected each year for 2 year terms. That size ExComm provided a significant pool of leaders to draw from in or

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Chair's Column

CAPITALISM, CLIMATE CHANGE AND PATRIOTISM

Ken Baer



November 3rd was a sobering and somber day. An article in the Times stated that the right had started to plan strategy on how to begin to re-make Congress in January, 2009, even before Barack Obama had been

sworn in.

There were numerous factors that contributed to Republicans taking control of the House and many governorships. Conservatives were handed an unexpected tool in early 2010, when the Supreme Court ruled in the Citizens United case, that independent political broadcasts could not be limited in elections for public office. This established another vehicle by which corporations could influence elections and public policy. In terms of the environment, this meant the ability to single out any elected official or candidate that supported a carbon tax, a cap and trade program, or any attempt to address climate change.

Another factor in the midterm elections was the emergence of the Tea Party. These folks were outraged over the \$787B stimulus package, the bail out of the banks, and the complex health care reform bill. They were affected by the Great Recession and saw the Democratic President and Congress as easy scapegoats. These citizens were probably angry to begin with, and these developments just added fuel to the political fire that was in many of them to begin with.

Conservatives hold free markets as the ideal under which economies should operate. Conceptually, free trade is wonderful, except if the working conditions and environmental regulations overseas do

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Opinion

CLIMATE CHANGE AND POPULATION

Katherine Schwarz

Co Chair, Atlantic Chapter Population and Environment Committee

Two of the most serious issues that we face in our lifetimes are climate change and population growth. Many Sierra Club activists are addressing climate change, but few are addressing population growth. Yet they are inexorably linked. If we fail to address the ongoing increase in population, it will negate any achievements that we may be able to accomplish in reducing pollution and reducing global warming gas emissions overall. If we fail to address both of them, they will lead to devastating alterations in our lives. In 2010, William Ryerson, (President, Population Media Center (PMC)) wrote, "In 1992, when the world's population was only 5.4 billion, the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society of London jointly issued a proclamation urging that we stabilize population worldwide as soon as possible in order to avoid catastrophic environmental consequences. That same year 1,700 of the world's leading scientists, including several Nobel Laureates, signed a Warning to Humanity that said in part, 'Pressures resulting from unrestrained population growth put demands on the natural world that can overwhelm any efforts to achieve a sustainable future.' "

We have a huge amount of work to do to get our leaders to do the right thing about the climate disaster our planet is facing. The population issue is an even more difficult one to address. The world population is 6.8 billion, and is growing by 83 million/year. World population is expected to reach 7 billion in 2011. The United States has the third largest population in the world with 307 million people and PMC estimates our US population will reach 420 million by 2050.

Meanwhile, with the House of Representatives

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News and Updates

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a sense of innocence and security that in my community is already scarce.

This year, however, there was a new feeling that brought a sense of hope to all of those around me--the feeling of service, the feeling of giving back to the community as a way to honor and remember. This year, as I stood on the roof of an urban farm in the South Bronx surrounded by community residents and youth leaders, I saw the hope that brings change through action. The Building Bridges to the Outdoors program in New York City, as part of Sierra Club's national "Serve Outdoors" campaign, helped coordinate this amazing service project, which allowed for this hope to shine through.

In partnership with Get Dirty NYC!, the Horticultural Society of NY, and BBTO, 25 community residents, youth leaders, Sierra Club members and partner organizations came together to carry bags of soil, fill garden boxes and plant seeds. The urban farm is located on the roof of a green building that is used for women and children exiting the shelter system in New York State. In a community that has very little-to-no green space, the urban farm provides a place for residents and youth to learn about nature and horticulture, and provides a place to get fresh vegetables- something that is also scarce. Local farms like this one, as well as community gardens, help communities learn about food sustainability and nutrition, and in turn creates healthier communities and helps combat climate change.

This year on 9/11, we honored and remembered. By giving back, we also got something back—hope.

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Agreement on Newtown Creek

Len Maniace

Newtown Creek and its slow-motion oil spill, which ranked as the nation's worst until the oil well blow-out in Louisiana, finally caught a break this fall, actually two.

First, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency declared Newtown Creek a federal Superfund site in late September. This requires an investigation for the four-mile creek dividing Brooklyn and Queens, a probe to determine both a remediation plan and who will pick up the cleaning bill.

Then last month, New York State and ExxonMobil reached a settlement binding the petroleum giant to

a series of timetables in removing tainted soil and groundwater south of the creek in nearby Greenpoint, though it avoids specifying a final completion date.

Beyond the natural world, the biggest winners are the residents of Greenpoint who were plagued with gas fumes and fears over the health effects from a spill estimated at between 17 million and 30 million gallons.

Among those are community activist Christine Holowacz, who joined the struggle to clean up the spill in the late 1970s. That was shortly after a Coast Guard pilot noticed an oil sheen spreading across the creek which has been lined with petroleum refineries and oil depots since the 1800s.

"There was a lot of talk about people getting sick and people smelling it. People smelled it in their basements," said Holowacz, co-chair of the Greenpoint Waterfront Association for Parks and Planning, referring to pervasive oily fumes.

Under government pressure, ExxonMobil began removing the spill from groundwater below its facilities, but the slow rate of recovery did not please residents or environmentalists.

In 2002, Hudson Riverkeeper brought its technical and legal muscle to the effort. In 2007, Attorney General, and now Governor-elect, Andrew Cuomo sued the petroleum giant in federal court over the slow pace.

In addition to the cleanup costs on land and in groundwater – a figure likely to total in the hundreds of millions of dollars – the agreement with New York State calls for ExxonMobil to provide \$25 million for environmental amenities in the neighborhood, which could include things like a park or walkway along the creek.

Gas Drilling Moratorium

Annie Wilson

In last quarter's issue, we reported on the gas drilling moratorium bill passed by the State Senate. Now, at press time, it has been announced that the state assembly will reconvene on Nov. 15. It is critical that we engage our assembly members to vote on the gas drilling moratorium bill, A11443B. The State Senate passed this bill during the summer, which would stop issuance of drilling permits until May 15, 2011. We must get the Assembly to follow suit.

However, this is a stopgap measure, and future ef-

forts should require that no permits be issued until the full EPA hydrofracking report (due 2012) is issued. Our Club must only support practices that fully protect our Clean Water. Call or write your Assemblyperson and Sheldon Silver, the Assembly Speaker, at 212.312.1420.

White Roofs and Million Trees Programs

John Kolp

On Oct. 13, Mayor Bloomberg painted the One-Millionth Square Foot of highly solar reflective white paint in a ceremony marking the achievement of the NYC Cool Roof's Initiative's goal for 2010. The program continued into November, taking advantage of the warm weather, with an additional 75,000 square feet of painted roofs. City Sierrans participated in a number of roof painting events throughout the 2010 campaign, applying energy-saving, climate change-fighting white coating to the roofs of the Bowery Mission, Democracy Prep Charter School, the Fountain House, and St. Christopher Otlie's Family of Services campus in Queens. NYC Sierra will continue to work with the City's Cool Roof Initiative in 2011, as well as partner with the White Roof Project, White Tops NYC and the White Roof Action Project. Painting cannot resume until next May, but we are spending the winter on educational outreach and advocacy efforts.

On Oct. 23, NYC Sierra participated in MillionTreesNYC Fall Planting Day at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. We had perfect weather as we worked with nearly 200 other volunteers to plant 2,300 trees and 700 woody shrubs in the Turtle Cove Reforestation Area. The Parks Department treated everyone to morning muffins with hot apple cider and even a picnic lunch (thanks to corporate sponsors of MillionTrees). Other City Sierrans participated individually at parks in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island as more than 20,000 trees were planted city-wide. MillionTreesNYC has now planted 400,452 trees, nearing the half-way point of its goal.

You can volunteer to help out with these climate recovery efforts (and have fun in the process) by contacting John Kolp at 212.400.8230 or e-mail at jjkolp@yahoo.com.

Milestone in Brooklyn's Fight for a Park

Judi Francis

It has been nearly six years since the communities surrounding the abandoned piers on the waterfront began fighting to designate Brooklyn Bridge Park an actual park, and to eliminate five more condominium and hotel

towers planned inside park borders. Now, the prospects for accomplishing these goals seem more achievable with new funding ideas to pay for park operations and a new demonstration of the park's vitality as open space for all as sections opened this summer. But there is still considerable work ahead.

City Sierrans are asked to come to two public comment meetings to be held in early December, and speak on behalf of park designation and elimination of housing. This will be the first time since the housing-inside-a-public-park-scheme was hatched that the city is now considering alternatives to their plan, and asking for public comment! These meetings are critical to voicing the importance of our parks and their contribution to both urban-livability and tax dollars. The increase in real estate pricing in DUMBO since that park section opened proves that parks more than pay for themselves. But a recent proposal to negotiate with the Jehovah Witnesses to develop their soon-to-be-abandoned buildings for park financing is gaining traction. One building sits across the street from where two inside-the-park condo buildings are expected to rise. Replacing park buildings with the Jehovah Witness building across the street would benefit all. The Witness building would have unobstructed views of the harbor (now threatened by the imminent condo towers), and the park will gain room for recreational features that were removed when housing was put in. Likewise, Senator Squadron's park increment recapture proposal would take a small portion of the rise in taxes from buildings that do not currently pay taxes or pay at a lower rate, and put those dollars towards the park. Reducing the inflated costs to run this park (at 2-3 times the cost of the most expensive parks in New York City) will also lessen the need for condos.

City Sierrans are also asked to continue their advocacy for park designation for this land. Brooklyn Bridge Park is not a NYC or State park. It has its own rules, own staff, and governance not subject to city council oversight. The recent flap with artists who wanted to share their work inside Brooklyn Bridge Park but were turned away because it is not considered a park but "an entity" clearly demonstrates the confusion and perils of non-park status (go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU6Z95HFFBc for the behavior of Brooklyn Bridge "Park" operators).

City Sierrans must come out to the public comment meetings in December. Email your contact info to Park-Defense@yahoo.com for notification on date, time, and location for these meetings.

Transit Advocates Call for a Better Hudson River Rail Plan as Deep Cavern Tunnel Plan Is Cancelled

By George Haikalis

New Jersey GovChris Christie cancelled the ARC (Access to Regional Corridor) Hudson River rail tunnel plan on Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2010, after more than a month of unsuccessful efforts by USDOT officials to find sufficient funds to save the \$13-billion-project.

Sierra Club leadership in New Jersey and Connecticut, and many members in New York City, played an active role in calling attention to the serious flaws in NJ Transit's original deep cavern passenger rail tunnel plan, which centered on a costly and passenger-unfriendly disconnected rail terminal 180 feet below 34th Street in Manhattan

Rail advocates are urging transit officials in N.J. and N.Y. to advance a much better plan- the Moynihan/Penn Station First alternative. This plan calls for construction of a simple, two-track connection between the new Hudson River tunnels and existing tracks and platforms and Penn Station as described in the ARC February 2007 Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) report, plus-dropping the deep cavern terminal station from further consideration. Rail advocates estimate that this will reduce construction cost by more than \$3 billion dollars compared to the rejected proposal, and would make the connection plan achievable within current projected fiscal resources, including approximately \$3 billion of USDOT New Starts funds. Moving forward quickly and resourcefully is critical to providing a much-needed increase in Hudson River passenger rail capacity, a serious concern for the economic success of the N.Y.-N.J.-Ct. metropolitan region.

Rail advocates also called for restarting planning and preliminary engineering work for the track connection between Penn Station and Grand Central Terminal, described as Alternative G in the 2003 ARC Major Investment Study (MIS), and requested that the full documentation for the 2003 MIS be released to the public immediately. To achieve a cost-effective regional and intercity rail plan the Christie Administration must work with the relevant agencies within the new Cuomo Administration in New York State, the Bloomberg Administration in New York City, and Federal agencies including Amtrak and USDOT. Immediate products of such cooperation would be advancing a plan to greatly expand through-running train service at Penn Station, which has the promise of increasing peak hour rail capacity by as much as 25 percent in the near term and detailing emerging plans for greatly expanding stairways and concourse at Moynihan/Penn Station that would benefit regional and

intercity passengers. It is important for independent organizations like the Sierra Club and other advocates of sustainable transportation to participate in the development of these plans.

Much of the effort to advance a better plan has been coordinated by the Regional Rail Working Group, an informal collaboration of transit advocates in the N.Y.-N.J.-Ct. region. The group meets monthly in Manhattan, and Sierra Club members interested in regional rail issues are invited to attend. For details check www.rrwg.org

Controlling Raw Sewage Discharge unsigned

The New York City sewer system transports and treats about 1.4 billion gallons of waste daily. But when sewage flow exceeds either plant or interceptor capacity, sewer content can bypass the plants and flow directly into waterways, referred to as bypass events. Based on data collected by the Interstate Environmental Commission's Bypass Working Group, 250 bypass events occurred 2008, of which 227 contained raw sewage. This means that 3.5 billion gallon of raw sewage was dumped into the harbor without treatment that year. Rainfall of greater than 0.1 inches occurs more than 200 times a year,contributing to these events. There is no reason to think 2008 was not typical of the current decade.

City and State agencies and the EPA have a long-range plan to reduce the bypasses with innovative collection schemes and plans for reflowing sewer plant flow, which was announced by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection as Plan2020 last month.

A local pilot project started by Sierran Bart Chezar in Brooklyn's Gowanus area is working with rain barrels, roof rain diversion, and outfall monitoring.

Extell Riverside Center Decision Olive Freud

On Oct. 27, 2010 the City Planning Commission made public its decision approving without modification Extell's proposal to develop Riverside Center, the property between 59th and 61st St and between West End Avenue and the Henry Hudson Parkway. The proposal envisions building five buildings totaling 2500 units and 1250 parking spaces, along with commercial space.

The approval came in spite of objections by Manhattan Community Board 7 and Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer. The community board had asked for changes to avoid overcrowding in schools, including a new school (rejected by Extell), an increase from 20 to 30 percent in affordable housing, and congestion on the streets. Springer

has since rejected the proposal. Two Commissioners did make public statements voicing their disappointment. They noted that most of the testimony argued for holding the density and parking spaces to that which had been negotiated in the 1992 agreement and hoped that further negotiation would continue. One of the Commissioners expressed concern about the credibility of contracts made by the City.

As we go to press, a hearing on Riverside Center is scheduled before the City Council Land Use Subcommittee Nov. 26, at 9:30 AM, at 250 Broadway, Manhattan.

(Additional reporting by Gary Nickerson)

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Gowanus Canal Superfund Committee Begins Work unsigned

The first meeting of the Citizens Advisory Group for the Gowanus Canal took place Oct. 26th at the American Can Factory. The group, which currently consists of 56 members representing various community groups, local businesses, and residents, were gathered together by our chosen facilitator, Jeff Edelstein. In addition, representatives of several businesses and groups, plus community members, local press, elected officials, and their representatives, and employees of other government agencies attended.

After presentations by EPA and the facilitator, the members broke up into small groups to discuss the individual and representative group goals, how the processes of the CAG would work, and how communication to and from the CAG might take place. And finally, the members were encouraged to select committees upon which they are interested in serving.

NYC SIERRA CLUB PHOTOGRAPHY COMMITTEE EXHIBIT

Judy Rosenblatt

One of the Photography Committee's most ambitious exhibits: More than 100 photographs by 52 members are on view as we go to press at the Calumet Gallery at 22 W. 22nd Street in Manhattan, between Fifth and Sixth Avenues. The exhibit, "Inspired by Nature," is a beautiful, sprawling show



Judy Rosenblatt, "Duckwalk"

with images ranging from landscapes and seascapes to leaf and flower close-ups. A large section is devoted to birds and animals. Undersea life and insects are also wonderfully portrayed. The exhibit demonstrates the range and artistry of the Committee's talented nature photographers. It also serves as a venue for publicizing the Sierra Club and encouraging visitors to become members.

As part of this exhibit, the Photography Committee wished to honor the memory of two past members, Kay Simmon Blumberg and Bill Strom. A special section is devoted to their outstanding work. The exhibit was juried and curated by photo editor Barbara Koppelman.

The show ran through Nov. 26.

See announcements in back for future Photography Committee exhibits.

Inner City Outings Raises \$9,200 at Hike-a-thon and Has Fun

On Oct. 16, 2010, the half-dozen Sierra Club groups hiked up Bear Mountain in a Hike-a-thon to raise money from sponsors and donors. Altogether, they raised more than \$9,000, including one donation of \$5,000.

Farm visits also ranked high for ICO groups. On the last Saturday in September, the Kingsbridge High School and Camp Interactive groups to an apple orchard in Conyers, NY. And, on October 30, ten students from PS 241 visited Dr. Davis Farm for pumpkin and apple picking with several ICO volunteers. So, a new season of ICO activities is underway.

For more information about the ICO program, go to <http://nycico.sierraclub.org>.

Staten Island Greenbelt

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dollar value of these properties, in terms of sale, is minimal, compared to Pouch Camp. Pouch Camp, although home to many acres of wetlands, steep slopes, lake, ponds and streams, is still monetarily valuable for luxury residential development. It is zoned R1-1, which would require large lots, sits in a NA-1 (natural areas district zone)], but this “protection” does not preclude development.

Pouch Camp is not only a Scout camp, but it is also home to many diverse groups. For example, it contains a Vietnam veteran’s memorial park; a summer camp run by the YMCA; a group called “Camp Good Grief”, which provides outdoor experience as part of the healing process for children who have lost a parent or sibling. It is the first and, sometimes only, wilderness experience for many of



Greenbelt Destinations

High Rock Environmental Center and Greenbelt Headquarters

Greenbelt Nature Center

Greenbelt Native Plant Center and The Victory Plant Center

William T. Davis Wildlife Refuge

La Tourette Park

Willowbrook Park

Greenbelt Natural Areas



our boys and girls, and for some adults, from the entire metropolitan region.

Immediately after GNYC/BSA’s announcement, a coalition, called The Committee to Save Pouch Camp, was formed, consisting of scout leaders, environmental advocates, veteran’s organizations, fraternal and civic groups, and regional advocacy organizations. At this point in time, there are 29 groups and the list is growing. Meetings, fundraisers and rallies have been held. Elected officials have been brought willingly on board. GNYC/BSA has met many times with representatives of the committee and the Committee is working to find a solution that will preserve the camp and ensure its place in the Greenbelt.

In the meantime, the GNYC/BSA hired an international marketing firm, Jones, Lang and LaSalle, to complete a formal appraisal, a wetlands study and the preliminary work needed for preservation and/or sale. This work appears to have been completed, but the results have not been publicly disclosed. However, the GNYC/BSA has announced that it is working closely with the Trust for Public Land and elected officials to put together a financial package that would protect the land and create a revenue

stream for them. Nevertheless, these are private negotiations so the community remains concerned about the future of Pouch Camp

This struggle to protect Pouch Camp in the Greenbelt, through its preservation and protection, represents a critically important preservation battle in the city. We have the opportunity, working together, to complete our Greenbelt, leaving an intact wilderness legacy for future generations

However, the sources of preservation revenue to support these efforts, such as: NYS Environmental Protection Fund, are subject to the same budget pressure that other state and local programs are confronting. For these reasons it is critical to expand public awareness and support and to reach out to local officials to create support for the preservation of Pouch Camp as part of the Greenbelt.

For more information contact.

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Kathleen Vorwick – President - Greenbelt Conservancy: vorwickk@aol.com

Dominick Durso – 1st Vice President – Protectors of Pine Oak Woods – ddurso@almargraphics.com

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SAVING POUCH SCOUT CAMP IN THE STATEN ISLAND GREENBELT

Robert E. Adamski

While the efforts of Protectors of Pine Oak Woods and others to save the Pouch Boy Scout Camp from development are commendable, I suggest their efforts should be directed to the Scouts rather than to the City and State. Rather than having government buy the property to help the Greater NY Council out of their alleged financial problems, the NY Council should look to their National Council first.

The National Council has over \$500 million in assets including, I have read, a \$20 million art collection. It received over \$115 million in income last year and pays its Chief Executive over \$1 million dollars a year. Also, the Greater NY Council has over \$10 million in assets, received a little more than that in revenue last year and pays its Chief Executive almost \$300,000 annually. The Greater NY Council has a rating from Charity Navigator of only 34 and one star.

I suggest that the Boy Scouts sell off a few paintings, reduce costs and use the money to save Pouch rather than look to the financially strapped City or State to do it.

gatorbob@nyc.rr.com



Allison Jones, from "Water is Life"

Candidates Statements

Thelma Fellows

I have been Chair of the NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee for four years during which time the bylaws were re-written, a system for nominating board members was established, and photography exhibits were held at the New York Science Center, the Rockefeller Preserve, and another opening at the Calumet Gallery in NYC in November which is designed to honor two past members and to bringing attention to the Sierra Club's concern for the environment and the beauty of nature. At monthly program meetings open to the public, committee members have presented their photography, or viewed the work of many well known nature photographers. Through outings, participants have experienced nature in NYC and in distant places. None of these accomplishments could have been completed without the cooperative work of many members working harmoniously together.

Qualifications:

Long time member of the Sierra Club and 20 year resident of NYC.

Legislative Chairperson, then President of the League of Women Voters of Lewiston, Idaho.

Grant writer for \$50,000 grant from the City of Lewiston, Idaho to establish the Valley Recycling Center while working with Vista Volunteers of America and other community members.

Goals:

Focus on the core values of the Sierra Club related to environmentalism, conservation, and pollution elimination and abatement with specific concern for cancer causing and genetically damaging pollutants .while continuing to work on sustainability projects in coordination with other organizations.

Obtain maximum member participation to promote legislative action on the issues we support at all levels of government.

Antuan Cannon

Dear Fellow NYC Sierrans,

My name is Antuan Cannon and I am a 26 year old, Ivy-league educated, Mexican-American environmental activist, educator and social entrepreneur. I am also currently the vice-chair of the Executive

Committee of the NYC Group of the Sierra Club.

I graduated from Yale in 2006 with a double major in Economics and East Asian Studies. Shortly after graduating, I co-founded a 501(c)3 non-profit—Envirolution—dedicated to facilitating green economic development and empowering the next generation of sustainability leaders. I currently work as the director of operations for Envirolution where I manage the development and implementation of our various green workforce development programs, including the Win-Win Campaign—an energy efficiency training and small business assistance program.

Over the past year alone, Envirolution—under my leadership—has trained over 150 underserved green job seekers, provided energy audits to over 75 small businesses, educated over 300 high school students on sustainability, and placed over 80% of participants in our flagship training program into industry specific (green) jobs.

Prior to working for Envirolution, I worked as an energy auditor at a full service energy engineering and sustainability/LEED consulting company. There, I managed the NYSERDA Small Business Energy Audit Program for the majority of the NYC metropolitan area.

Serving on the ExCom for the past two years has been a privilege, pleasure and incredible learning experience, and one that I would be honored to be able to continue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Antuan Cannon, LEED AP, BPI BA

Tom Wismuller

Those attending my “Colderside©” talks worldwide, know my observations about effecting climate change through CO₂ . Likewise, those East Coast members who have been on Sierra Club Photo Tours I’ve led through NY State’s watershed know exactly where I stand on nature issues.

I want you to help me re-establish the clear vision of John Muir, our Sierra Club’s founder and Patron Saint of the American wilderness. Sustaining our magnificent natural heritage should be our prime dedication, yet our club has been almost “hijacked” by advocates of Carbon “Rights” Trading and “Cap

& Trade” proponents. Can you imagine Muir’s reaction to purchasing a “Right” to pollute?

Well, here’s mine: I have ZERO tolerance for adding carcinogens to our rivers and poisons to our air. ZERO!!! Research dollars should be spent helping companies using petrochemicals achieve that objective, and misguided focus on CO₂ (not a poison) deftly removes our concentration from horrible by-products really polluting our groundwater, wilderness, and homes.

Why do Oil, Chemical, and Power companies contribute to “Cap & Trade” position advocates? Because it “Legally” allows them to buy permission to 1: Continue polluting and 2: Removes them from liability for doing so!!! I have no tolerance for either.

Sierra’s national leadership positions are filled by sincere but misguided “Cap & Trade” advocates having lost Muir’s vision that millions of members still hold dear. If you believe focus on CO₂ and “Rights to pollute” are the way to go, there are other fine (though somewhat misled) candidates to vote for.

Edgar Freud

Promoting activities and policies that protect our environment has always had a high priority for me. In practice has meant to me, recycling our waste stream and enforcement of clean air and water laws.

I have been a Sierra Club member over forty years, an elected NYC Group Executive Committee member for eighteen years, NYC Group Treasurer, and chair of the Biosolids Committee.

In addition, I have worked with NYC Department of Environmental Protection as co-chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Pollution Prevention, monitoring and promoting the prevention of ocean dumping of sludge and for a satisfactory product in land applications. I am a NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Committee member.

We desperately need to improve air quality in order to decrease asthma rates among the young and the elderly. A corrective action at the moment is to promote rail over autos with the Institute of Rational Urban Mobility. We are proposing a passenger rail station on the Amtrak Westside line in the Lincoln Center area of Riverside South project.

I am an Eagle Scout, a professional engineer, and a pro bono consultant for: the Coalition for a Livable

Westside, the Committee For Environmentally Sound Development, and the North River Community Environmentally Review Board.

Vote and elect me as your ExCom member.

Anasa Scott

I believe that as an Executive Committee member of the Sierra Club NYC, I could facilitate partnership building between our chapter and community groups, city-wide, that we have yet to be tapped for talent and resources in our efforts to stem local climate change impacts. I have over 10 year’s community development experience and in 2004 I joined Greenproofing, Inc. a City College affiliate that engages under represented groups, particularly youth, in environmental education and sustainability projects through partnerships with public schools and community and faith-based organizations.

As an adjunct lecturer at the City College of New York in the Economics department, I teach a service-learning course and serve as an advisory board member on the New York Metro Area Service Learning Partnership (NYMAPS) - a working group of universities and non profit organizations city-wide that work to advance the role of service learning in academia to increase student involvement in community based work with sustainability and climate change projects often at the forefront.

Finally, I received a BA and MA in Economics from CCNY and received additional environmental science education training at the CCNY Science Education Department through its NASA education grant in partnership with the Museum of Natural History. I look forward developing strategies and policies that deepen Sierra Club NYC’s connection campus and community based programs. Director, Greenproofing, Inc. Anasa@greenproofing.org 646-320-8472

Lorna Salzman

I would like to join the Sierra Club Executive Committee in order to pursue my deep concern that NYC is not adequately prepared for the impact of climate change.

My 40 years’ experience as an energy and environmental activist. regional representative of Friends of the Earth (1973-84) and natural resources specialist with the NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection (1992-95), have provided me with strong advocacy and educational skills and an understanding of citizen concerns and government functions.

NYC must address climate change impact in order to minimize the import of food and energy and make a transition to a low-energy way of living with the resources and capabilities of the metropolitan region.

Our priorities:

- 1) sharply reduce energy consumption in the construction, commercial and residential sectors through mandatory energy efficiency standards in construction, proper energy pricing and incentives for business and residences;
- 2) facilitate the stability and economic health of regional food producers in the metropolitan area, including Long Island and the Hudson River region;
- 3) raise the cost of using private vehicles in Manhattan while providing reliable, frequent, low cost or free public transportation to all parts of the city through innovative transportation planning;

Cities need to substantially shape national energy policies. I believe the Sierra Club is the ideal organization as a watchdog and for strong citizen-based advocacy of necessary legislation at all levels of government. Your vote for me would be appreciated so that I can represent the Club's policies in an informed and forceful manner.

Dan Miner

Some SC Groups in big cities, like those in LA and Chicago, have hundreds of activists, and literally thousands of people each year attending group events. At the other end of the spectrum, like failed states, are failed Groups. The Executive Committee of the virtually defunct NYC Group has long been controlled by a tiny faction, out of touch and inept. Even if it wanted to build a viable volunteer organization, they are incapable of doing so. Dan and other volunteers blew the whistle and twice tried to unseat them. The reform slate won the winter 2009 election, but the faction forced its overturn on a technicality. The faction won the summer 2010 re-run election through a ruthless campaign of fraud and libel, swaying most of the 350 or so of the 10,000+ members in NYC who actually voted. Blocked from reactivating SC NYC, the reformers are now working productively with other groups. Boycott the ineffective SC NYC ExCom, whose members orchestrated or condoned election fraud. Vote for Dan as a watchdog on their activities. Protest the outrage to Michael Brune at michael.brune@sierraclub.org. For details, go to

www.sierraclubnyc.blogspot.com, and contact Dan at beyondoilnyc@yahoo.com. As a volunteer organizer with Post Carbon Institute and 350.org, and past Chair of SC NYC, he has written about how NYC can expand support for climate change initiatives by preparing for higher and more volatile energy prices. www.beyondoilnyc.org. He is employed as SVP of LIC Business Development Corporation.

Diane Buxbaum

Diane Buxbaum
365 Sackett St., Brooklyn, NY 11231
ddbuxbaum@earthlink.net

MY GOAL IS TO MAKE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP RESPOND TO THE CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES THAT WE FACE.

IF ELECTED, I BRING MORE THAN 3 DECADES OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, ADVOCACY, AND PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERIENCE.

THE MOST IMPORTANT CRISIS IS GLOBAL WARMING:

We must reduce our addiction to fossil fuels and support sustainable forms of energy.

CREATE CULTURE OF SUSTAINABLE LIVING:

Reduce levels of consumption of natural resources; reserve ecologically significant habitats and preserve all species.

SUSTAINABLE NYC:

Promote energy efficient construction and rehabilitation, protect community gardens, expand city parks, restore wetlands instead of encouraging shoreline development. Promote Green Roofs and White Roofs.

PUBLIC EDUCATION:

On the role of population/consumption in global climate change, species and habitat loss, sprawl, degradation of the human condition. Work with other environmental organizations on population and environmental impacts.

ACTIVITIES: NYC Conservation Chair or Co-Chair, Member of ExCom, State Chapter ExCom 2002, Population Committee Co-Chair, Currently Chair Gowanus Canal Committee, Member state Global Climate Change Task Force, O&P Committee, Past volunteer Central Park Zoo and American Museum of Natural History, currently working with Friends of

the Earth Middle East.

EDUCATION: Doctoral studies field ecology, Fordham; MPH Columbia

University; Masters in Environmental Health Science, Hunter College; BA Zoology, UCLA.

EMPLOYMENT: USEPA 1982-present, Environmental Scientist, ecological risk assessment, enforcement, compliance assistance, National EPA Gold and Silver Medal award recipient.

Fred C. Hart Inc., Environmental Consultants, Hunter College, Assistant Prof. Environmental Health Science.

Carl Arnold

To expand the reach of my work on hydrofracking, I joined the Sierra Club. This has meant testifying at hearings, speaking and emceeding at press conferences, lobbying in Albany and the city, going to community boards to promote anti-fracking resolutions, writing articles, and showing films and leading discussions afterward — upstate and in the city.

In addition to the all-consuming anti-hydrofracking effort, I've done anti-nuclear work and demonstrated against the over-development of Atlantic Yards. I'm on the NYC Group's Political Committee, interviewing candidates so that the SC gives its imprimatur *only* to deserving hopefuls.

Besides membership in the Atlantic Chapter's Gas Drilling Task Force, I'm in NYH₂O and the upstate anti-fracking group CDOG.

The importance of the SC's position in the US cannot be overestimated. Its role in helping to craft a sound energy policy for the US is, I believe, essential. The Sierra Club must articulate the environmental principles by which our society makes the transition to a post-carbon society.

I believe the Club must steer in the direction advocated by David Brower, its first executive director (and founder of the Earth Island Institute and Friends of the Earth): "We are to hold fast to what we believe is right, fight for it, and find allies. We . . . work hard to coax it our way. We become a nucleus around which the strongest force can build and function."

In other words, the Sierra Club should set the goals. We have our work cut out for us.

ExComm Resolution

(Continued from page 2)

der to assign responsibilities for committees and events. Having 18 members also provided an opportunity for newer activists to succeed those whose lives had changed, and could no longer make a monthly meeting.

Over the last 10 years the NYC Group ExComm has had periods where we had 15 members and 9 members. The body was most productive when there were 15. Not only was there a greater diversity of members, but there was a greater breadth of knowledge and ideas.

Lately there have been a sufficient number of members interested in serving on the ExComm, that we should have a competitive election every year. With more candidates and a larger ExComm, there will naturally be a greater synergy.

The NYC Group is growing as a result of the struggle with hydraulic fracturing and our work on improving energy efficiency. There are new members who have been involved with these issues who have shown their ability to plan campaigns and to lead them. The ExComm needs to have enough seats at the table so that all these environmentalists can fully participate, and the Sierra Club can benefit from their talents and ideas.

CON: STATEMENT AGAINST PROPOSAL

The NYC Group ExComm is large enough at 9 members, and this a sufficient number to be a diverse body. Besides, attaining a quorum would be more difficult with more members.

Meetings are long as it is, and adding members would just prolong debate. The meeting is open to all Sierrans, and they are allowed to speak during deliberations. Sufficient points of view are expressed already.



Patricia Garbarini, "Elegance"

Announcements and Events

Until December 15th, Free Electronics Recycling Events

at your school, park, business, anywhere. This promotion is designed to inform the public about electronics recycling. We will organize, advertise, and run an electronics recycling event at the location of your choice free. Call 877 937-3292 or email info@werecycle.com

Thursday, December 2, 7:00 to 10:00 PM: NYC Inner City Outings: "Get Your Drink On" Have a few drinks inside to help NYC ICO's kids explore outside. It's a win-win! **NYC ICO Volunteer Laura Shanon will be guest bartending on behalf of NYC ICO.** Laura has arranged everything.... They'll be **50/50 raffle** and **50% of the tips from 7pm to 10pm will be donated to NYC ICO.**

Wednesday, Dec. 15, 6:30 Photography Committee sponsors Members' Night. Sierra Club members are invited to present up to 8 color slides or digital images on a Nature subject. Enjoy light refreshments with us as we celebrate the coming holidays. St. Paul the Apostle Church Parish Hall, 405 W 59th St., 2nd floor. And you will have the opportunity to sign a petition supporting the repeal of the exemption of hydraulic fracturing from the Safe Drinking Water Act. For further information contact: sierraphotonyc@aol.com, or call 718-460-6734 or 212-734-6563.

Saturday, January 1, 2011 - NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK - Meet 11am at Bldg. 1 in Fort Tilden, Rockaway for a brisk hike along the beach, dunes and woods. Then return to Rockaway Artist's Alliance Bldg. for free champagne, coffee, cake & cookies. No reservation necessary - just show up (preferably sober). Free. (Other beach hikes same time at Jones Beach, Fire island and Sandy Hook, NJ). Call (718) 318-9344 for info & directions. E--mail: donriepe@gmail.com Free. .

January 7-9, 2011 - Montauk Winter Weekend & Seal Watch - Spend 2 nights at the luxurious Manor House during peak winter birding season. Cost: \$365 includes lodging (double occ.- single room is \$120 more) , 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs , a star watch plus free pickup at

the LIRR station in Montauk. See seals, loons (2 species), eiders, scoters (all 3 species), gold-eneye and many more species of waterfowl. Hike the dunes, bluffs and woodlands. Call Don for more info (718) 318-9344; e-mail: driepe@nyc.rr.com

Wednesday, January 19th - NYC Sierra Group Meeting - Meet other city sierrans. Come at 6:30pm to the Judson Memorial Church at 55 Washington Square South (entrance on Thompson St, Greenwich Village) . "The Sierra Club recently, and again, helped an environmental group get its day in court and won a significant victory with potentially wide-ranging implications. How can we consolidate these incremental victories, and how can we expand environmentalists and their causes in front of an increasingly resistant court system? Is the New York State Court System simply a reflection of our dysfunctional Legislature? Come and discuss: ***What do we do now" Our Own Andy Lawrence will present his recent experiences.***" *Wine & Cheese, refreshments.* \$5.00 donation appreciated.

Wednesday, January 26, 2011: The Photo Committee presents Outdoor and Nature photographer Joseph Rossbach. St. Paul the Apostle Church Parish Hall, 405 W 59th St., 2nd floor, at 6:30 PM. For further information contact: sierraphotonyc@aol.com, or call 718-460-6734 or 212-734-6563.

Wednesday, February 16th - Jamaica Bay: An Urban Preserve in Crisis - Come and join other city Sierrans at 6:30pm to the Judson Memorial Church at 55 Washington Square South (entrance on Thompson St, Greenwich Village). Naturalist Don Riepe will present a digital slide program on his 30 years experience working in Jamaica Bay. He will discuss marsh loss, sea level rise, bird control at JFK Airport, and habitat management for the many species of birds and other wildlife found at this National Park preserve. Refreshments served: wine & cheese, snacks. For more info, call Don at (718) 318-9344; e-mail: donriepe@gmail.com.

Chair's Column

(Continued from page 3)

not meet minimum standards. Nevertheless, the outsourcing of jobs is detrimental to our society, and especially if the losses are in the manufacturing sector. When goods are produced elsewhere, it takes energy to transport them to the U.S.

As thoroughly as the conservatives and Tea Party activists have tried to wrap themselves in the American flag, by dedicating themselves to free markets and no new taxes, progressives and environmentalists need to make their own patriotic pitch. BUY AMERICAN.

BUY AMERICAN is a slogan from the 1980's when the U.S. was running big trade deficits with Japan, and is occurring now with China. Back then it was the auto industry that was in a downward spiral, while now it is the whole manufacturing sector.

Our movement needs to energize the electorate into being patriotic. Which means convincing our neighbors that buying American not only creates jobs, but is good for the environment. That producing goods in the U.S takes less energy to get them into the hands of consumers, than it does to transport them from elsewhere. That taking public transportation and forgoing automobiles means less oil that needs to be imported from overseas.

Most importantly, progressives need to stay involved politically year round. That is the only way we will be able to elect legislative bodies with environmentalists in the majority. Time is running short in terms averting the worst that climate change may bring. We need to elect legislators that support renewable energy, are committed to public transportation, and believe that creating green jobs in the

Climate Change and Population

(Continued from page 3)

changing hands, we risk sliding backwards on both climate change and the population issue. Many of

the new Tea Party members deny climate change is even happening! Regarding population, if the new majority leader Boehner gets his way, he would repeal the health reform bill along with measures within it to improve women's access to birth control! Many of the new Republicans now in power would like to revive the Bush-era "abstinence only" programs that censored discussion of birth control with young people! If they manage to take back the White House in two years, as is Boehner's main goal, the Mexico City Policy would likely be restored, cutting US funding for healthcare clinics around the world that offered family planning services.

These are urgent issues! We implore you to give this some serious thought to how we can involve more Sierra Club members and concerned activists around these issues. ! Send letters to the editor of the City Sierran with your thoughts. To be continued in the next City Sierran.

No Campaign Mailing Pledge

At its the Executive Committee on Oct. 28th, the following resolution was adopted:

"The Nominating Committee shall invite each candidate who qualifies for the ballot to agree to the following pledge: "I will not support, contribute to, or participate in any campaign mailing to a Sierra Club list unless someone else gives notice of intent to send such a mailing." The ballot shall indicate which candidates have agreed to this pledge."



Like the outdoors?

Like Kids?

You should hike with us.

For more information on this Sierra Club program, see <http://nyico.sierrablub.org> or contact: Angela Bole, Chair, at Notvanishing_27@hotmail.com.



Sierra Club - New York City Group

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We're on the web
nyc.sierraclub.org

NYC Group Executive Committee Election Ballot

ELECTION BALLOT

The Executive Committee (ExCom) of the New York City Group sets policy in conservation, finance, lobbying, and all political activity. It has nine members serving staggered two-year terms. This election will choose four Executive Committee members with terms to expire at the end of 2012. All together, there are nine candidates for four vacancies.

For joint memberships, two columns are provided but only one member can vote per column. If single membership voters mark both columns only the left-hand column will be counted. ALL BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **FRIDAY, December 31, 2010**.

Ballots will be counted publicly at a date, time, and place to be announced on nyc.sierraclub.org

HOW TO VOTE: You may vote for up to four candidates. You may vote for fewer than four, but you may not cast more than one vote for any one candidate. Cast your vote by placing a check or an X on the line by the name. Joint members will use the same ballot but indicate their choices in the two separate columns appearing next to the candidates' names. Fold your ballot and place in an envelope addressed to:

**Sierra Club, Election Committee
1350 Broadway, Suite 201
New York, NY 10018**

Cut your address label off the back page of the back of the envelope and securely tape it to the outside back of the envelope. The label will confirm your membership in the Group and your eligibility to vote. Seal the envelope and affix correct postage. Ballots and envelope will be separated before the tabulation, so that your vote is secret. Ballots will be counted only if addressed as indicated above; affixed with proof of membership (City Sierran or other Club label); and RECEIVED in the mail no later than **Friday, December 31, 2010**. If your ballot is lost or damaged, call 212-791-3600 ext. 281 and leave a message requesting a replacement ballot.

- **Vote for 4 or fewer of the following candidates. They are named in random order for this ballot.**
- **Vote for or against the Resolution to Expand the Executive Committee or refrain from voting on the resolution.**

Candidate	Person 1	Person 2
Carl Arnold*		
Diane Buxbaum*		
Dan Miner		
Loma Salzman*		
Anasa Scott*		
Edgar Freud*		
Tom Wysmuller*		
Antuan Cannon		
Thelma Fellows*		

*Those candidates names marked with asterisks have agreed to a "no campaign mailing pledge." See p. 14.

Resolution to Expand the Executive Committee to 15 Persons
(see page 2)

Vote	Person 1	Person 2
For		
Against		