

# Delaware Sierra News

A Sierra Club Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware

Fall 2009

## Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Project Permit denied – Looking back over the last 8+ years

by Bill Moyer

There are probably few people in Delaware who are not familiar with the saga of the years' long attempt by the Corps of Engineers (COE) to deepen the navigation channel of the Delaware River from its maintained depth of 40' to a depth of 45'. The purpose of the project purportedly is to make the ports along the Delaware River more competitive with other ports up and down the Atlantic seaboard and to reduce the amount of lightering that occurs at the mouth of the estuary that is necessary for vessels navigate a 40' channel. Lightering involves the pumping of crude oil from tankers onto barges that then proceed to the oil refineries. The dredging would remove 33,000,000 cubic yards of heavily contaminated sediments from the Delaware River at a cost of \$311,000,000.

In the 1800s, the controlling depth of the Delaware River was 18'. During World War II, the COE deepened it to 40'. In 1983, Congress directed the Corps to examine the feasibility of dredging the channel to 45'. Since other ports could accommodate deeper draft vessels, it was argued, the Delaware River needed to be deepened in order for the commercial establishments to remain competitive, to make the river safer for navigation, and to reduce the

environmental damage that was resulting from the lightering operation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was created by Congress in 1776 to build fortification at Bunker Hill. The 'modern' day Corps was founded in 1802. There are now 8 Divisions around the country with 32 District Offices, 34,600 civilian and 650 military employees.

The goal of the Corps can best be summed up in the title of an early publication of theirs entitled, "Nature.....To Be Commanded". Which indeed the COE has been trying to do for over 100 years including straightening and deepening our rivers, diking riverine floodplains, ditching wetlands, damming waterways, diverting rivers and installing lock systems the COE has been relentless in its pursuit to control Mother Nature.

A 'Feasibility Report' by the COE in 1987 concluded that the project was environmental sound and economically justified. In 1992 Congress authorized the project, the Corps published an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) the same year, published a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) in 1997, and an Environmental Assessment (EA) in 2009. For all of these years, Congress has appropriated funds so that the

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# **Looking Back: Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Permit Project**

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COE could hire outside consultants to conduct costly environmental and economic studies in order to determine the potential impacts that would result from the proposed dredging. In spite of two reviews by the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) that found that the cost of the project outweighed the economic benefits that would accrue from the dredging and that the project was “flawed”, the COE has forged ahead.

It should be noted here that the Delaware River Estuary is an approved as part of the ‘National Estuary Program’ and large sums of money have been expended to study the dynamics of the estuary and to protect water quality and habitat. In 1971, at the International Convention on Wetlands, signed in Ramsar, Iran, the wetlands of the Delaware River Estuary were designated as ‘RAMSAR’ globally-important wetlands. This designation provided the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

Also, it should be noted that the ports that are competitive are already at a depth of 50' so that the ports along the Delaware River really need to get to 50' to achieve their sought after competitiveness. The lightering, too, has had very few environmental incidents unlike the numerous spills from oil tankers that run aground while trying to navigate the treacherous Delaware River.

Dredging in Delaware waters requires several approvals from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC): a Subaqueous Lands Permit, a Wetlands Permit, Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone Consistency. No dredging can begin until all of these approvals have been secured. Similar approvals are required by New Jersey and Pennsylvania since the deepening would occur in those states’ waters. In addition, the COE must comply with a myriad of federal environmental laws that are administered by federal environmental agencies. These are the same laws that the permitting arm of the COE requires applicants for a COE permit to dredge to fully comply with. The COE 2009 EA contains a summary table that indicates that it still has not completed steps to comply with several federal statutes. This, after having 25 years to prepare.

After years of arguing whether or not it actually needed State permits, the COE submitted an application to DNREC on January 19, 2001. The legal

analysis for why it did not need permits was not, as promised by the Colonel of the Philadelphia District, submitted to DNREC.

Because of the overwhelming public response to DNREC’s public notice for the project, a public hearing was convened on the evenings of December 4 & 5, 2001. There were 132 exhibits introduced at the hearing and in December, 2003, the independent Hearing Officer submitted his 156 page report to DNREC’s Secretary recommending that the permit be denied. The Secretary is directed by law to issue a Secretary’s Order with his findings and conclusions. The problem is that there is nothing in Delaware’s laws or regulations that sets a time limit for issuing an Order (a matter that should receive a legislative remedy in the near future). In spite of a recommendation that the permit be denied including a list of 56 application deficiencies and in spite of an internal DNREC report that listed 21 deficiencies in the application, DNREC made no decision.

Instead, the Corps was allowed to submit additional information to DNREC without public involvement. The COE continued to reduce the scope of the project by lowering the amount of material that need to be removed and eliminating the widening of some of the bends in the Delaware River that they said were needed to assure safe navigation of deeper draft vessels. All of this in an attempt to obtain a favorable review from the GAO which is now, for some reason, conducting its third economic review of the proposal. The COE will not say ‘uncle’ in its duty to ‘command’ our environment.

Because of the ongoing obfuscation of the hearing record, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, Delaware Audubon Society, and Delaware Nature Society filed a ‘Writ of Mandamus’ lawsuit in Delaware Superior Court on December 12, 2008 requesting that the Court order DNREC to act on the now 7-year-old permit application. Opening briefs and answering briefs were filed and a decision was pending.

And then, much to the delight of those concerned with Delaware’s environment, the incoming Secretary of DNREC issued a Secretary’s Order on July 23, 2009 denying the permit application. Secretary Collin O’Mara stated in the Order that the permit was being denied because, “the passage of time and the changed estuary conditions make the original application stale and inaccurate” and that, “the Pro-

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## Membership Committee Seeks Additional Members

by June Satterfield

We really need volunteers for the Chapter's Membership Committee! Right now, a meeting of the committee could fit inside a broom closet... in fact, there's just one membership person upstate and one downstate. Our job is to recruit and welcome new members, guide and encourage all members to find ways to be involved, and organize events that members can attend. We send out letters to new members, table at events to attract new members and increase our visibility, stay informed about the activities and volunteer needs of all the committees, and plan events. Membership development is hugely important to the success of the Delaware Chapter.

The Sierra Club is a "grassroots organization," and I could really use some help growing this grass so we can have a greener presence in Delaware!.

Anyone who'd like to join me to brainstorm on membership issues or would like to help tabling or planning an event would be so welcome. E-mail June Satterfield at [junesatterfield@verizon.net](mailto:junesatterfield@verizon.net) or call 302-653-6596.

## Farewell Message From Engagement Coordinator

by Ezra Temko

I have had the privilege to work for the Sierra Club of Delaware for the past two years. I will be transitioning out of my role as Member & Community Engagement Coordinator to participate in the AmeriCorps program Teach for America; I will be teaching 6th grade Math at Prestige Academy in Wilmington for the next two years.

I am thankful for the opportunity I have had to be involved in good work Delawareans are doing to green our planet and hold our state accountable for its natural resources. I've served under three chairs – Kathleen Davis, who was energetic and focused on moving our chapter forward and communicating with our membership, Jay Cooperson, who helped to keep our chapter together as we went through some changes, and Matt Urban, who brings a wealth of experience to the position and has been focused on leadership development and volunteer recruitment. I have also had the opportunity to work with countless wonderful volunteers committing their time to the cause of bettering our planet.

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## Looking Back: Delaware River Main Channel Deepening Permit Project

*continued from page 2*

ject has substantially changed from what is represented in the pending application, and those changes occurred after public notice of the application occurred". The Order and cover letter from Secretary Collin O'Mara to the Philadelphia District Commander were precisely on target. It would be extremely difficult for anyone to argue with the decision given the history of this project.

The U.S. Army is one of the premier environmental regulatory agency in this country requiring a myriad of federal permit for all manner of activity including the dredging and filling of waterways and wetlands. They have very strict requirements that applicants must adhere to in order to fulfill the permitting requirements. Why then, can such an agency not be able to submit a complete application to DNREC for a permit?

For the Corps of Engineers, this should be an embarrassment. It definitely leaves one with the impression that its project planning is way off and borders on the incompetent. One can only hope that future applications are afforded the same scrutiny

that individual applicants to the COE are subject to.

There are several loose ends that will require further attention. The Corps of Engineers may argue, as it has previously, that they do not need a State permit to conduct dredging even though they could not produce any legal document to back up their position. If they do proceed in this manner, further lawsuits may be warranted. In addition the U.S. Senate recently appropriated \$10 million more for this deepening project. This should be withdrawn in light of the permit denial. Also, most of the \$2.2 billion in recent stimulus funds went to the COE with 2/3 of the money going to pet projects in states whose elected officials sit on the appropriation committees. For the Corps of Engineers it's politics as usual.

Some years ago, a 'Corps Oversight' group was formed to oversee Corps projects and to make sure that needless projects were not approved. It appears that they were asleep when the Delaware River Deepening Project came before them.

Let's urge all state and federal officials to de-authorize this project and end the further waste of time and money!

# Commentary: Concerns of a Chemist

by Al Denio

**Delaware City Refinery** – Valero shut the refinery down for several weeks last spring to perform a series of major upgrades. I view this as a very positive step for a refinery that is over 50 years old and whose ownership has changed many times. Just recently on July 25th they lost power from a Delmarva Power substation failure, causing the release of more pollution.

We moved back to Delaware in 1998, at which time the refinery was owned by Motiva. It was a notorious polluter, one of the largest sources of sulfur dioxide in the U.S. It also released nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and a variety of other hazardous compounds.

Then came the explosion/fire that destroyed a huge acid storage tank, killing one worker and injuring several others. At that point, Governor Minner and DNREC Secretary Hughes required many changes, one being the formation of a Citizens Advisory Panel (CAP) to meet with refinery management on a monthly basis. Lorrie Fencer and I agreed to represent the Sierra Club. Other groups represented included the Delaware Nature Society, the League of Women Voters, New Castle Civic Council, Delaware City, the University of Delaware, the Kathleen H. Wilbur Elementary School plus several homeowners associations near the refinery.

The purpose of these meetings is to provide for interactions between refinery management personnel and members from the public representing different groups. We get briefings on recent air and water releases, equipment failures, safety concerns and employee injuries. John Pickering, the plant manager, has been very helpful in answering questions raised by CAP members.

We have seen a great reduction in emissions since those early days. I have the impression that the most recent upgrades will greatly reduce dangerous releases. However, I do not expect zero emissions from this very large and complex plant. Components do fail in the real world due to corrosion, fatigue and extreme weather events. There is always the chance of human error.

The conversion of crude oil to gasoline plus other fuels and chemicals in a complex process that requires high temperatures and pressures involving many steps, one being the removal of the element sulfur, a common oil impurity. Since I am a gasoline

consumer, I depend on the oil industry and DNREC to provide the product in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

**DNREC Concerns** – The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is a very important state agency that we depend upon to protect our land, air and water. They also are in charge of park lands, hunting and fishing licenses and many other activities. Frankly it would make more sense to have two separate agencies but that will not happen until I become King!

The head of DNREC is appointed by Governor Markell who conducted a national search. He has selected Collin O'Mara to fill this very important position. When I read about his background and qualifications I was shocked that he was not a scientist. Chad Tolman has met with Mr. O'Mara and came away impressed. He is apparently bright with good communication skills but does he know the difference between benzene and dioxin? How will he be able to analyze pollution data? Of course there are many well qualified scientists at DNREC to advise him but will he be able to see through the smoke screen provided by our state's polluters? I do wish him well but I shall certainly want to watch his decisions on pollution cases.

**Fish Kills and Cooling Towers** – The *News Journal* published a very nice article last year by Jeff Montgomery dealing with this problem. The Valero Refinery, the Indian River Power Plant and the Edgemoor Power Plant are the three major culprits. They withdraw huge amounts of water from the Delaware River for cooling purposes and in the process kill millions of fish, crabs and other aquatic life. The obvious answer is to build cooling towers to eliminate or greatly reduce water use.

I have raised this question at the Valero Refinery and their goal is to reduce river water use by about 35% in five years. They claim that cooling towers are too expensive but they just spent many millions of dollars to purchase several ethanol plants in the Midwest. We must continue to demand a 95% reduction in river water use!

Of course the three nuclear plants on the New Jersey side of the river are a major problem but are beyond our control. We hope that the Sierra Club of N.J. will pursue this.

*continued on page 5*

# Central Delaware Activities Report

by Ron Zink

## An Environmental House

Nearly 1,000 man hours later a beautiful, environmentally green home has finally emerged. It all started when the club was considering the idea of building one. Someone found one that was started and for whatever reason stopped.

The reason was that they had not followed directions and it was being built backwards. A young man heard of the dilemma and being civic minded thought he could rehab the project. Several weeks later his father returned the house with no improvements.

This happened at least two more times. The house looked to me like it should be used as a burn for some fire department to do a control burn.

But Carol Taylor would not give up. The club now has one of the most beautiful displays in our inventory.

Our only problem now is size and its security. We constructed a Plexiglas wall around it which should discourage furniture movers. It is complete with a rain barrel, clothes line, etc., etc., etc.

It is now located temporarily in the Modern Maturity Center in Dover but will be moved to a school library when they open.

If you are interested in having it placed in your venue, Contact Carol Taylor at 302-672-6340.

## Adopt A Highway

When a hike is more than a hike, that's when club members meet at Dan and Mary Snyders' on a Saturday morning and scour a couple of miles along Hazletville Road. This Adopt-A-Highway program has turned into one of our more popular activities.

We have found it all. If it can be thrown from a car window, they will throw it out. "I never thought the general public could be that way," Mary says.

The group meets about 10a.m., police the area and adjourn for a late breakfast or lunch. If you would like to participate, contact Mary or Dan Snyder at 302-674-4040.

## Central Sierra Club News

Sarah Keifer, Kent County Planner and daughter of late David Keifer, presented an update on central Delaware long range planning at the August meeting of First Thursday. How many more developments are they building? Is there going to be a new high school in Dover, and how about the library? These are all issues the county, state and local governments

are dealing with. Sarah is an expert on planning and land use and follows in the footsteps of her father who led land use conservation programs for many, years here in Kent County.

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## Concerns of a Chemist

*continued from page 4*

**The Metachem Mess** – On July 28 I attended the EPA Public Hearing in Delaware City to discuss their plan for this Superfund Site. Metachem filed for bankruptcy in 2002 and abandoned this highly contaminated facility. Since that time, EPA has been dismantling the plant and disposing of large quantities of toxic compounds such as benzene and variety of chlorinated benzenes. Due to several very large spills (~400,000 gallons!) and years of daily spills, the soil is heavily contaminated. Thus far, EPA estimates that they have spent about \$100 million.

Next is the process of closing the site, consisting of about 33 acres. EPA proposes a cap to cover the worst 23 acres. The cap is not yet defined – possibly cement, asphalt or geomembrane/dirt covering. There would be land use restrictions and site reviews every 5 years. They estimate the cost at \$11.5 to \$18.5 million.

I urged EPA to move beyond the cheap and easy plan to their rejected plan 2B – Surface Cap/Institutional Controls, with Soil Vapor Extraction. This option would involve 200 to 500 air extraction wells at 50 ft. depth. The air beneath the cap would be pumped out and the toxic chemicals removed for proper disposal. This plan is estimated to cost \$19.1 to \$26.2 million. It would result in the removal of some portion of the pollution – not perfect but much better than the cheaper EPA preferred plan.

In conclusion, there is some optimism about Delaware's environment but there are many battles still ahead such as the dumb proposal to dredge the Delaware River. Having President Obama in the White House and new EPA leader is indeed encouraging. However, it is important to follow these issues and send your thoughts to our Congressional delegation in D.C. and to our Legislators in Dover. Think of them as your EMPLOYEES and provide the necessary supervision.

Please contact Al Denio if you would like to be involved with this committee. He can be reached at [alvaldenio@aol.com](mailto:alvaldenio@aol.com) or by phone at 455-0389.

# Thoughts From The Delaware Chapter Energy Committee Chair On Global Climate Change

by *Chad Tolman*

The science of global climate change is sound. Human activities – especially the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil and natural gas) – are increasing the atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and upsetting the energy balance between incoming visible radiation from the sun and outgoing infrared radiation from Earth. Of the major GHGs - water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, ozone and chlorofluorocarbons – CO<sub>2</sub> is the major concern. It stays in the atmosphere for centuries and has increased in concentration by 33% since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, from 280 to about 387 ppm (parts per million by volume). Annual global net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are over 30 billion tons, increasing by more than 3% each year, and raising the CO<sub>2</sub> concentration by over 2 ppm/year.

During the past century, global average temperatures have increased by about 0.8°C (1.5°F). Policy makers have generally agreed that an increase of more than 2°C (3.6°F) could cause serious damage to the climate system, and must be avoided. That may not sound like much, but keep in mind that the coldest period in the last ice age, 20,000 years ago, was only about 6°C cooler than it is today, and sea levels were lower by about 400 ft! Continuing business as usual during this century could cause a warming of 6°C or more, with catastrophic results.

The concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHGs that will cause the global average temperature to increase over 2°C is not known precisely, but is probably in the range of 350-450 ppm. (We are already at 387 ppm CO<sub>2</sub>!) That means that the growth of net GHG emissions must end soon, and that they must then be decreased as rapidly as possible to near zero or even negative (meaning that more CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed by human activities than is emitted). The only practical way to discourage these emissions is by raising their price enough— either through a direct carbon tax or a cap-and-trade system that sets a declining cap on GHG emissions and allows the market to set the price. We already have a system like that for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants in ten states, including Delaware, called the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The energy bill (H.R. 2454) recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives involves a nation-

al cap-and-trade system for most of the economy. It is supposed to reduce U.S. GHG emissions to 83% of their 2005 levels (about their 1990 levels) by 2020 and to less than 20% of their 1990 levels by 2050. It's a good start, but needs to be strengthened in the Senate.

Important features of a good Senate bill include:

- U.S. leadership in reducing per capita GHG emissions
- Greater incentives to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels by renewable energy sources
- Phase out of the oldest and dirtiest coal plants
- Assistance to developing countries to develop clean energy economies and to adapt to climate changes that cannot be avoided.

## Sierra Club Membership Application Coupon

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Address 2 \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Contributing	\$100	\$108
Life	\$1000	\$1250
Senior	\$15	\$23
Student	\$15	\$23

All dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1). Dues are not tax deductible.

Mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968,  
Boulder, CO 80321-2968

FrepNo: F94QW58001

## The Energy Committee of the Sierra Club Delaware Chapter has a new campaign to fight global warming... and everyone can help!

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Clean Energy and Security Act in July and has sent it on to the Senate for consideration in the fall.

This is an historic bill that the Sierra Club supports because it is the first ever to address climate change. However, it is a flawed bill that has been weakened by the fossil fuel industry. The bill needs to increase investments in energy efficiency, hasten the transition to clean energy sources like wind and solar, and steer more investments toward the public benefit, not polluters. Significant changes to accomplish the emission reduction goals necessary to curb global warming and protect the Clean Air Act are necessary.

Each of us has an opportunity to help with this campaign. The Chapter's goal is to send a strong message that thousands of Delawareans support a robust climate/energy bill that will get the job done!

### How can I get involved?

Please go to the chapter website [[www.delaware.sierraclub.org](http://www.delaware.sierraclub.org)] and check out the information on the American Clean Energy and Security Act. Then fill out both cards, one is addressed to Senator Carper and one to Senator Kaufman. Put them in an envelope and return them to us at this address:

Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club  
100 W. 10th Street Suite 106  
Wilmington DE 19801

Our goal is 1,000 signed cards. If you want to do more print out additional cards from the website, and see how many Delawareans you can ask to sign them. Friends, family, and neighbors are a good place to start. You may also be part of a club or organization, church group, or work place where there are people concerned about global warming and energy independence. Everyone should sign both. Make sure that the handwriting is legible, and if not, ask the signer to print his or her name.

Again, put them in an envelope and return them to us at the address above. We will be collecting all of the cards and hand-delivering them to the Senators' offices this fall.

Dear Senator Carper

I believe that climate change is the greatest global and national challenge we face and that a strengthened American Clean Energy and Security Act is critical to addressing that change. I would like to ask you to support changes to the Act which:

- \* Ramp up the bill's investments in energy efficiency;
- \* Hasten the transition to clean energy sources like wind and solar;

\* Steer more of the bill's investments toward the public benefit - not polluters.

Passage of this bill is important to Delaware because we are a coastal state, heavily dependent on tourism and agriculture, and poised to lead the offshore wind industry. Thank you.

Y.Y.Y.E

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Dear Senator Kaufman

I believe that climate change is the greatest global and national challenge we face and that a strengthened American Clean Energy and Security Act is critical to addressing that change. I would like to ask you to support changes to the Act which:

- \* Ramp up the bill's investments in energy efficiency;
- \* Hasten the transition to clean energy sources like wind and solar;

\* Steer more of the bill's investments toward the public benefit - not polluters.

Passage of this bill is important to Delaware because we are a coastal state, heavily dependent on tourism and agriculture, and poised to lead the offshore wind industry. Thank you.

Y.Y.Y.E

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## ExCom Nominations Sought

The Delaware Chapter and the Chapter's Southern Delaware Group are seeking qualified candidates for this year's Executive Committee elections.

### **Nomination deadline: September 25, 2009**

Interested parties must contact the Chapter nominating committee by September 25 to be considered.

### **Petition candidate deadline: October 23, 2009**

Members may also run for Chapter ExCom by petition by obtaining signatures from at least 25 Chapter members prior to the deadline for submissions of petitions. Petitions should include membership numbers of those signing, and all petitions must be received by the Chapter Secretary by October 23.

For more information or to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact one of the nominating committee members:

#### ***Delaware Chapter Nominating Committee:***

**Nancy Carig** ([nancy@bluewaterwind.com](mailto:nancy@bluewaterwind.com)) - 302-636-0555

**June Satterfield** ([junesatterfield@verizon.net](mailto:junesatterfield@verizon.net))

**Jerry Bilton** ([JABilton@aol.com](mailto:JABilton@aol.com))

#### **Remaining Election-Related Dates:**

- Deadline to submit names to Nominating Committee for Consideration: **September 25**
- Nominating Committee Reports to ExCom: by **October 9**
- Deadline to Submit petitions to Secretary or ExCom designee: **October 23**
- Election Committee prepares ballot by: **October 30**
- Ballots printed by: **November 6**
- Mailing list for ballots or for newsletter containing ballots obtained by: **November 6**
- Week of ballot mailing: Week of **November 8**
- Closing date of election: **December 20**
- Election committee counts ballots and notifies candidates, Excom, and other interested parties of results: **as soon as practical after closing date, but no later than January 10** (exact time/location to be set by Election Committee, and communicated to all candidates, Excom, and other interested parties by December 20)

## Farewell Message

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Over the past few years, the Delaware Chapter has continually increased its work to reflect the seriousness of our work. We've established a Political Committee, re-established our Recycling Committee, started to hold quarterly member events called "Sierra Connections," increased our transparency and communication, and made sure there are ample opportunities for Sierrans across the state to be involved and have fun. From the environmental candidates' forum where our current governor answered questions to a packed crowd to our recent picnic at Lum's Pond, the Sierra Club of Delaware is definitely a place to enjoy, explore, and protect the planet!

If you are thinking about getting involved but are unsure about the best activity for you to be involved in, please do contact the chapter! Our Membership Committee will definitely be able to plug you in. I look forward to continuing to be involved in our chapter and working aside all of our wonderful volunteers and green leaders in the First State.



**SIERRA CLUB**  
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Create an Environmental Legacy.

Requests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more info and confidential assistance, contact  
Gift Planning Program  
87 Sausal St, 2nd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
(800) 952-4270  
[planned.giving@sierraclub.org](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)



*Sierra Club National President Allison Chin visited Delaware on Sunday, June 28 for a day of activities, including a leadership development session, an executive committee meeting, and a member meeting. The event was held at the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve's St. Jones Center. Left: Ms. Chin and Delaware Chapter Chair Matt Urban.*

## Sierra Club of Delaware Chapter Events

For all committee meetings and chapter events check out the chapter calendar on the chapter website: <http://www.delaware.sierraclub.org/>

You can also add environmental and Sierra Club events to the calendar using the password "delaware"

**Chapter Executive Committee and Quarterly Planning Meeting** – Saturday September 12, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Community Service Building in Wilmington. This meeting will focus on beginning planning of chapter activities for 2010, and all chapter committee chairs, committee members, and other chapter members wanting to get involved are highly encouraged to attend. During the meeting we will discuss how to most effectively organize committee work, and we will work together on planning committee activities and budgets for the upcoming year. This is an ideal forum for chapter members to bring forth new ideas for ways the Sierra Club can engage in addressing the environmental challenges within Delaware and beyond. For details call or e-mail Matt Urban at [matt@mobiusnm.com](mailto:matt@mobiusnm.com) or 302-521-4495

**Political Committee Meeting** – September 16, 7 p.m. Location TBD. For more information e-mail [politics@delaware.sierraclub.org](mailto:politics@delaware.sierraclub.org)

**Community Day in Newark** – September 20, looking for volunteers to help run the chapter table.

Contact June Satterfield: [junesatterfield@verizon.net](mailto:junesatterfield@verizon.net)

**Energy Committee Meeting** – September 23, 7 p.m. Check the chapter website for more details.

**Conservation Committee Meeting** – October 13, 7 p.m. Check the chapter website for more details.

**Coast Day in Lewes** – October 4, 10 a.m -4 p.m. looking for volunteers to help run the chapter table. Contact June Satterfield: [junesatterfield@verizon.net](mailto:junesatterfield@verizon.net)

**Political Committee Meeting** – October 21, 7 p.m., Location TBD. For more information e-mail [politics@delaware.sierraclub.org](mailto:politics@delaware.sierraclub.org)

**Executive Committee Meeting** – November 23, 7 p.m. For details call or e-mail Matt Urban at [matt@mobiusnm.com](mailto:matt@mobiusnm.com) or 302-521-4495

The Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club publishes the *Delaware Sierra News* quarterly. This publication is written and produced entirely by volunteers. Ideas expressed in the *Delaware Sierra News* are those of the columnists and may not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. Limited time constraints of an all-volunteer staff do not always allow for full data corroboration. Send materials for submission to the Sierra Club, 100 W 10th St, Ste. 106, Wilmington, DE 19801 or by e-mail to our editor. **Winter Issue Deadline: November 30**

Editor: Jay LaCorte – [jay.lacorte@yahoo.com](mailto:jay.lacorte@yahoo.com)

Production: Susan Oldenburg – [VideoSue@aol.com](mailto:VideoSue@aol.com)

# Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group Leaders



All phone numbers are Area Code **302**

## Chapter Office

Phone: 351-2776

## Chapter Executive Committee

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**See page 8 for details about upcoming Chapter Executive Committee Elections**

## Sierra Club Delaware Chapter Change Of Address Form

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