

Meetings and workshops

All Chapter meetings are held at the Brecknock Park Nature Center, south of Dover off Rt. 13. Call 302-689-6451 for directions.

All Delaware Chapter members are invited to attend. The call for agenda goes out a week prior to each meeting to those who have indicated an interest in attending.

Chapter Conservation Meeting - June 13 at 7:00 p.m. Agenda will include project updates as well as a wild Delaware program will be discussed. Do you know of a special spot that needs protection? Join us to talk about these remaining special places and spaces.

Chapter Executive Comm. Meeting
July 24, at 7:00 p.m.

Chapter Conservation Meeting -
August 8, / 7:00 p.m.

Southern Delaware Group Executive Committee

Wednesday, June 6th, Til Purnell's, 7:00 p.m.
Contact Sallie Callanen (539-0635) for info. and Til (945-1317) for directions.

Delaware Deepening public workshop,
Wed., June 6, 6:30 p.m. in the Martin Luther King Auditorium at Delaware State University, 1200 North DuPont Highway, Dover, Delaware.

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Delaware Sierra News

A Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware * June/July/August 2001

Bush budget threatens to gut Endangered Species Act

by Bart Semcer

A proposal in President Bush's budget threatens to gut the Endangered Species Act (ESA), America's premier wildlife protection law. Under the President's plan, enforcement of the Act by the government will essentially become voluntary because citizens will effectively be denied access to the courts in efforts to protect imperiled species and their critical habitat.

Under the Bush proposal, the public would still be able to petition the government to protect species under the ESA and take federal agencies to court if they fail to implement the law. But the agencies would be prohibited from spending any funds to comply with court orders requiring them to act to conserve plants and animals that are facing extinction. The President's plan effectively denies the public access to the courts by rendering any attempts by citizens to conserve imperiled species meaningless. It would also give Interior Secretary Gale Norton, who has called the ESA unconstitutional, the final say on what species would be conserved and which would become extinct.

"Americans don't want just one politician giving a thumbs up or thumbs down on whether an animal vanishes from the planet," said Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "To save the Jaguar, Canada Lynx, Pacific and Atlantic salmon stocks and hundreds of other species, Americans have needed impartial courts to take politics out of the equation."

"Enforcement of the Endangered Species Act by protecting species is critical to conserving natural heritage of Delaware," said Jim Steffens of Sierra Club's Delaware Chapter. "The efforts of the Bush administration to gut the Endangered Species Act will make conserving the wildlife and wildlands of our state more difficult than it already is. We need the Bush administration to support our efforts to protect

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Many thanks to the volunteers who helped to fold and stuff the March Chapter Fundraising letter and to those chapter members who have responded so generously. Don't forget to send in your donation, to help the Chapter's conservation efforts, soon!

Work beginning to combat sprawl

This spring Governor Ruth Ann Minner announced her *Livable Delaware* initiative, for the first time seeking to take action on a broad range of issues affecting land use, open space acquisition, farmland preservation, and protection of the Inland Bays. We applaud the governor for her stand on sprawl, and her willingness to seek change. The Sierra Club will be an active and ongoing participant in the dialog, reminding everyone that how we use – and abuse – the land is the major determinant of our air and water quality.

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Workshop & hearing scheduled - Join in!

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has finally applied to Delaware for a state permit to carry out the dredging needed to deepen the 108-mile ship channel in the Delaware River, and to place dredge spoils on Delaware land. The Corps will hold a **public workshop** to explain the project on **Wed., June 6** at the Martin Luther King Center at Del. State University. This is an opportunity to ask questions about how the project will affect Delaware.

A **public hearing** on the project is tentatively scheduled for **July 10**. The public is invited to comment on the record. We are encouraging Sierra Club members to attend the hearing, at which we and others will be voicing our concerns on every aspect of the project. Contact Jim Steffens for more information: 302-239-9601.

Every Volunteer Counts

Periodically the Delaware Sierra News will feature articles and updates provided by Chapter or Group volunteers letting you know what they are involved in, care about and where you might consider volunteering your skills or time to help them.

Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group Leaders

Chapter Office 1304 N. Rodney St. Wilmington, DE 19806
Shiray Shipley 302-425-4911
hours: Tue-Thurs 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chapter Executive Committee (ExCom) Members

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Jim Steffens, chair | 239-9601 |
| Matt Urban, vice chair | 661-2050 |
| Cornelia Melvin, sect. | 945-4708 |
| Terri Tipping, treas. | 368-1452 |
| Jay Cooperson | 571-0660 |
| Debbie Heaton | 378-8501 |
| Boyd White | 335-1323 |

Chapter Appointed Officers

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Cons. Debbie Heaton | 378-8501 |
| Land Use Jim Steffens | 239-9601 |
| Litigation Carl Solberg | 492-1225 |
| Membership Al Denio | 455-0389 |
| Outings Dan Soeder | 284-2613 |
| Pol. Shamba Donovan | 368-0174 |
| Recycle Marsha Holler | 735-9687 |
| Trans. Bob Bennett | 731-4524 |

Southern Delaware Group Excom

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Sallie Callanen, chair | 539-0635 |
| Pete Okie, vice chair | 856-2728 |
| Rich Anthony, sect. | 645-1732 |
| Yuki Usuki | 436-4042 |
| Til Purnell | 945-1317 |

SDG Appointed Officers

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| Cons. Terri Usuki | 436-4042 |
| Land use. Rich Anthony | 645-1732 |
| Legal. Mike Lamb | 539-1008 |
| Mem. Lauren Ide | |

Visit us on the web:

www.delaware.sierraclub.org

Hey you! Yeah, you. Why did you join the Sierra Club, anyway? Was it because you were thinking that maybe you could make a difference? And now perhaps you feel foolish to have ever thought that one person could make a difference? Well, feel that way no longer! If you give the Club just a little bit of your time, you can make a HUGE difference.

We are an organization of volunteers. Even our part-time, paid staff person volunteers a significant amount of additional time to help get things done. This is her job, and yet she does extra work for free, because she knows how important it is. Many of our regular volunteers and activists are busy people. Several own businesses, and have barely enough spare time to scratch their nose. Others have regular day jobs, with maybe a few free evening hours here and there. The lucky ones are retired, and can devote more time to club activities than most. But no matter how busy you think you are, everyone can surely find a little time to devote to the club. Even if you can only give us an hour or two a week, it would make a big difference.

We desperately need help. We need volunteers for the fundraising committee. We need to organize phone banks and fundraising activities. We are in the early stages of planning some big events that will increase environmental awareness among the citizens, get more Sierra Club name recognition in the community, and raise significant money for the chapter. But it takes time and effort, and it's a tough job for only three or four people. Especially when those same three or four people are already involved on other committees and with other club activities.

We need help with the outings. The same three people have been taking turns leading ALL of the outings for the past year. Fortunately, leading an outing is easy...if there's an outdoor activity you enjoy, simply offer to share it with the membership. Hiking, caving, bicycling, bird watching, nature walks, canoeing...whatever your outdoor fancy, others will enjoy it. If you are doing these activities anyway, why not turn them into Sierra Club outings?

We need help with the newsletter. It takes a huge amount of effort to put this publication together, get it printed, folded, labeled and mailed every few months. If you can help out for

a few hours one evening stapling newsletters and sticking labels on them, it would make a huge difference. If you have talents that range from editing to artwork, the newsletter committee could use your help.

The Delaware Chapter has nearly 1,500 members. Yet, we see the same 12-15 people doing ExComm, fundraising, conservation, newsletter, outings, etc. The math is simple: 1% of the members are doing 99% of the work in this chapter. Please don't be an "armchair environmentalist." There are a lot of serious issues in this state and a lot of things we must do to combat them. We need your help, and we need it now. Please contact any member of the ExComm or any committee chairperson to find out what you can do. Or call Shiray in the Chapter office. The success of our organization and the environmental legacy we leave in Delaware depends upon YOU. Please get involved today. *Thank you.*

— Dan Soeder, Outings Committee Chair

Special luck and best wishes go out to Jim and Hope Russell, long time Sierrans, who will be moving to the New York state area following a new job for Jim. Thank you both for your support, advice and help!

Endangered Species Continued from page 1

the imperiled natural heritage of Delaware, not oppose them."

To get involved in the Sierra Club efforts to conserve wildlands and wildlife contact Debbie Heaton. To find out how you can help protect America's endangered species and join Sierra Club's Endangered Species Defense Network (ESDN) contact Bart Semcer in Sierra Club's Washington DC office at (202) 547-1141 or at bart.semcer@sierraclub.org

The **Delaware Sierra News** is published five times a year by the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club. This publication is written and produced entirely by volunteers. If you would like to help with its publication, please contact the editor (302-378-8501). The deadline for materials for the next issue is **August 5, 2001**. We reserve the right to edit materials submitted for publication. Materials and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: debbie.heaton@sierraclub.org. Ideas expressed in the *Delaware Sierra News* are those of the columnists and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. While effort is made to check for accuracy, time constraints and limited all-volunteer staff do not allow for complete data corroboration.

Editors: Debbie Heaton and Jean Bauer. Contributing writers: Jim Steffens and others as noted.

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Sustainability: With This Good Earth

by Glen Ernst

Editor's Note: Glen wrote this article in response to Dan Soeder's article in the March/April/May issue of the Delaware Sierra News.

Some book references are included in case a topic piques your curiosity. "*" means a Sierra Club book.

Sustainability is an incredibly complex interactive process, which the earth and its creatures developed together over millions of years. But then, with the beginnings of agriculture, moreso with the advent of civilization, and especially since the industrial revolution, humans have been unlearning those skills, forgetting the interaction and negotiation, insisting on our own way, claiming all land and sea and creatures as mere objects to serve our purposes. When they failed us in our grand designs, we created machinery, chemicals, nuclear power, even new life forms, to accelerate our escape from earth's ways, to triumph over it (and the poor) by creating our own world, all for us.

The earth and its creatures and some of its ancient peoples know sustainability. We do not.

But we can learn. Learn to dance again with this good earth – be attentive, cooperative, humble, courageous, and even creative, in cooperation, in solidarity, with our co-residents here on the planet. The price will be high, especially for them: many trillions of creatures, many millions of species, will be gone before we learn our new steps. And we too must change, we in the mis-developed global system of technology and corporate domination: letting go of much ego, myriad illusions, some comfort and convenience; letting go of traffic jams, instant mobility, isolation, and virtual worlds. We may not learn our part quickly enough. Nonetheless...care to dance?

Green behavior

I agree with Dan Soeder that our situation is urgent, and that much 'green behavior' is at best a preliminary to the needed changes. We are in this situation up to our eyeballs! But I also come nourished by environmental justice action and deep ecology values, knowing that the voices of the excluded and the forgotten, the poor and the extinct (our sisters and brothers all) are crucial to hear, receive, and respect. The siren songs of nanotechnology and genetic modification, of mining the entire surface of the moon for a few decades of power, or beaming microwaves from space when the Sun comes down for free, are not songs that sustain the earth's dance.

I will share some local, rocky paths I've tried to follow, steps toward sustainability, on which I still stumble and journey and learn. I offer these steps for your consideration; you may do some of them already. They are paths which, adopted by enough others, can add up to major change, and inspire us to work together on large-scale issues and public policy. But my approach here is from a more personal, local perspective; things we can start with, rather than blame the poor of the earth for the consequences of our lifestyle.

First, we need to set our lives in the context of all earth's people (data from the 1998 *NY Times Almanac*). The six largest economies (U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Italy, U.K.) had, in 1995, a total of 66.3% of the world's Gross National Product; we had 11.3% of all people. The rest of the world had only 33.7% of the GNP, but 88.7% of the people. The difference? We have over fifteen times the per-person income of the smaller economies. Not 15% more, 15 times more!

To get more specific: the U.S. per-person GNP in 1995 was \$26,980. In the other three big population countries, China, India, and Indonesia, it was \$620, \$340, and \$980 respectively. The ratios? Not 15 times, but 28 to 79 times as much per-person GNP here as there. (And many other countries are poorer than India.) If we focus just on energy usage, the ratios soften a bit: maybe seven times more energy in the West than elsewhere, although the country-to-country comparisons can come in at 15 to 40 times as much, with the U.S. often the worst. How could I live on \$980 per year or less? How could you? I have no idea.

But it is mandatory, as environmentalists, when talking about population, to measure the resource usage of people, which, as these numbers show, varies wildly. One U.S. child can consume as many resources as 20, 30, even 50 children elsewhere. With that much disparity, counting noses is misleading; the total resource impact matters more. It may be that much of the world looks at us for a model of consumption; but is the behavior we show commendable or just plain unsustainable?

I am, in fact, suggesting a guideline for sustainability quite odd to American ears: that we look to the earth for methods, and that we consider the conditions of women and men and children in the 'Third World' as a gauge for what can be sustained. This means using the poor as a model, rather than an object of pity. Some poor nations are slowing their population growth before the "necessary" economic development. One state in India (Kerala) has a life-expectancy equal to the U.S., and for good, public health and women's education reasons; yet their per-person income is less than \$500/year (Amartya Sen, *Development as Freedom*). One village in war-torn, drug-conflicted Columbia has become a veritable hotbed of innovation for sustainability in poor and urban communities (Alan Weisman, *Gaviotas: A Village to Reinvent the World*). Native American peoples are forging all sorts of sustainable relationships to the marginal land we Europeans consigned them to (Winona LaDuke, *All Our Relations*).

There are profound values conflicts here, not merely lifestyle questions. All sorts of issues tied up with our deeper sense of worth, identity, commitments and connections. (Alan Durning, *How Much is*

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“But we can learn. Learn to dance again with this good earth – be attentive, cooperative, humble, courageous, and even creative, in cooperation, in solidarity, with our co-residents here on the planet.”

Enough?) To go for an aphorism: sustainability means focusing on needs, not wants. It can happen only when we are neither wasteful nor wantful.

Income across the world

Compare your income to a different base: not to the Joneses, but to the Chans, the Singhs, the Begongs. Peter Singer, the controversial ethicist and animal rights activist at Princeton, has suggested (*Practical Ethics*) that for U.S. persons, anything over \$30,000 a year should be given away; beyond that, the money distorts our relationship to the world, confuses us as to wants and needs, and has scant ethical justification. I'm not sure if that's 30k per household or per person, and it needs adjustment for inflation. But you get the point: the life we really need may cost half what we make – now there's an ethical challenge! (Joe Dominguez/Vicki Robin, *Your Money or Your Life*).

Eat lower on the food chain, less meat, no fish from depleted wild stocks or fish farms. When possible, buy certified organic foods; they sustain the life of the soil as the food sustains you. Head towards vegetarian, even vegan (no dairy) if you can. Animals are inefficient converters of nutrients and calories, with something like a 90% loss in the process. Go to the source, do your own converting! Again, this involves learning from the poor: sometimes their diet is actually healthier, simpler and almost always more resource efficient and sustainable than ours. And keep in mind that one serious part of land loss in ancient forests and wetlands worldwide is burning and drainage to enable cattle production for export to the U.S.

Technology can help in some cases, but it will not save us. It may make matters worse, because it is poorly tested; the negotiation with other creatures that's essential to sustainability never takes place (like DDT). We have a grand scheme, near worship, of technological advancement, us guys especially, lusting for the next toy. Well, he who dies with the most toys, dies. Look in the closet, the basement, the attic, the garage; what delusions did you have about how that gizmo would make life so much better? Why is it just sitting there now? That's the personal level; but the same wonder, hope, and failure are true of many great technological 'advances': nuclear power, for example (Stephanie Mills, ed., *Turning Away from Technology*,*)

Corporations too can be of help; a very few are genuinely trying to develop sustainable production (Ray Anderson, *Mid-Course Correction: Toward a Sustainable Enterprise*). But most also need to manufacture our desire through advertising so as to sustain their profitability, and are quite willing to over-run local economies, the poor worldwide, and any species that even vaguely looks like a resource (Jerry Mander, ed, *The Case Against the Global Economy**). Because sustainability is usually antithetical to globalization, to focus only on profit is to make the economy not something to benefit all humans, but to benefit the few

who already have the most (Herman Daly and John Cobb, *For the Common Good*).

Conserve energy. No matter what oil baron Cheney says, conservation and efficiency, renewable energy, eventually a hydrogen economy, are by far the best bets. You probably know all this: fluorescent bulbs, energy-efficient appliances, hyper-efficient windows and better insulation, green building practices, hybrid vehicles, raising CAFE standards for all vehicles, refined production processes, photovoltaics, fuel cells – the list is long and expanding rapidly, and some see it as the only viable future for capitalism (Hawkens, Lovins and Lovins, *Natural Capitalism*). One Clinton-era government study, now conveniently forgotten, showed that through adopting conservation practices widely used in Europe, we could grow the economy for 20 years without any increased energy use.

Reduce car usage toward 0. Park that SUV or other armored tank unless you truly and frequently use it off-road. Car pool (one of my failings!) Ride your bike, not just off-road, but to work, and encourage your employer to put in showers. Chose to live where there are local stores within walking distance. Consolidate trips, shop online or by catalog. Take public transportation, push DART to come closer to where you live. If you think public transportation is just for the poor, remember what we've seen about them being better models of sustainability. Consider too the Metro in DC, a wonderful system. (Jane Holtz Kay, *Asphalt Nation*). I admit to having been able to walk to work for most of the last 30 years, partly by circumstance, largely by choice; what a joy and a learning that's been. How many people I've gotten to know just walking to work! That doesn't happen on the freeway.

Household impacts

Consider having one child, or none: As mentioned earlier, the impact of U.S. children, especially ones in households like yours, can be 20-50 times that of a poor child elsewhere. Couples who choose not have children, or have one, are not greedy yuppies who can't grow up; they may well be making a brave and never easy ethical decision (Bill McKibben, *Maybe One: A Case for Smaller Families*). This issue is not just one for potential parents, but for potential grandparents as well. Having no children raises the question of what does it mean to break the continuity of generations, to be the last (your name)? Who will take care of you in old age? As someone without my own children, I know these questions well; it's a real loss, but it has focused my 'parenting' in other ways.

And now for the more fun suggestions, the dancing ones!

Live Where You Live: Develop a consciousness of your watershed, what's in it and how it works. Shop

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Sustainability

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whenever possible in your bioregion, buying produce grown there and in season. Link up with community supported agriculture (CSAs). Do vegetable gardening and grow native fruits and berries. Share with your neighbors, even the lousy ones (the earth shares with all its children). Make some friends among the people in your neighborhood.

Take books out of the library (rather than buy them) or get them through interlibrary loan. Learn the history of creatures and peoples who used live where you do (especially the extinct or driven out, like native Americans, the elk near Elkton, or the great Delmarva Forest) and ponder how to welcome them back. Generally vacation nearby, learning your bioregion rather than (as Sierrans are well known to do) globe-trot or fly across the country for a three-day trek (Alan Durning, *This Place on Earth: Home and the Practice of Permanence*).

Celebrate wildness (to borrow from Thoreau), not just wilderness (which is a land-management concept). Wildness appears in those ecosystems where the whole community of beings form a self-willed land (as Dave Foreman often calls it in the excellent journal *Wild Earth*). All this can happen in your backyard (if you abandon the lawn); in my tiny backyard, 33 different species of wildflowers have grown over the years, blown in from somewhere.

Rejoice if your nearest parks actually have wild places in them. The Wilmington parks along the Brandywine 'suffered' from benign neglect for years, so that uncommon wildflowers grew where they were glad to; I saw wild turkey nesting, and young copperheads defending their turf; in Wilmington! But ever since DNREC took over, the agency continues to assume that bulldozers are conservation tools, that mowed lawns are natural, and that without active human management, the planet obviously doesn't know what

it's doing. I'll take wild any day; it sustains itself!

Deepen your spirituality, whatever your religious tradition. For me, this has involved a long but fruitful journey away from my childhood upbringing and professional commitments to an ever more earth-centered spirituality, with respect for all creatures. The changes implied throughout this piece will not take hold without a change in you. If I were to suggest one practical guideline, it is to focus on needs, not wants. Turn off that television or whatever brings the stream of advertisements you say you don't see. Ask over and again: what are my/our real needs? (Theodore Roszak, et al, eds, *Ecopsychology**; Gary Snyder, *Practice of the Wild*)

Become actively engaged, if only on one issue. Bird dog it, learn as much as you can (Lester Brown, ed., *State of the World 1984,1985...2001* remains an excellent annual summary of emerging issues). Speak about your issue; talk to other environmentalists, but also talk to people who aren't concerned, and try to figure out a way to reach them. Write letters to the editor; call radio talk shows. Start a study group in your faith community; join or start a Sierra Club committee on the topic. Testify at City Council, or County Council, or even in Legislative Hall in Dover. Make a demonstration project to show how it can work, or lead a peaceful demonstration against those who remain clueless. Think you don't know enough? Remember, the "experts" are often paid by rich corporations and think tanks to present one side of the truth. You are a citizen of this good earth; that counts!

Finally, let the earth sustain you, carry you on bad days, feed you as it has all your life, shine light into your days, wash you with rain. Let the birds sing their melodies, children laugh in their play. Sustainability will then become very, very clear.

Please call (426-1985) or mail me (gernst@diamonddnet.org) with comments.

Sierra Club t-shirt & tote bags



This design, by Great Graphic Originals of Dover, is printed across front of the shirt and on one side of the tote bag. The t-shirts are made out of organically grown cotton and printed with water-based inks.

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I will pick up my items, please call me at (____) _____ when they are in.
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Please mail my items
(\$3.20 per 2 lbs, about 3 shirts)

\$ _____

Grand Total Due

\$ _____

Proceeds of the sale will benefit DE Chapter and Group conservation efforts. Please complete coupon and make check payable to Sierra Club, and mail to Sierra Club, 1304 Rodney Street, Wilmington, DE 19806.

Sprawl in Delaware: Time to get involved

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The Chapter is seeking more people to work with the Chapter Sprawl Committee, or to get involved in each of the three counties. If you can help, please call the individual listed with each of the county articles that follows.

Sprawl in New Castle County

Throughout New Castle County people are concerned about the continued pace of development without adequate consideration for infrastructure, open space or farmland. The recent dismay over county approval of the Odessa National development is an example of that concern.

Unfortunately, subdivision proposals like Odessa National generally do not reach the County Council unless they conform to the county comprehensive plan and comply with the Unified Development Code. If they satisfy traffic studies (all too easy to do) and meet these requirements, the New Castle County Council can do little but approve them.

The process starts with the county comprehensive plan, laying out the growth zone in each county, plans for infrastructure improvement and open space preservation, and the overall approach to managing growth. State law requires that these plans be updated by 2002. New Castle County is gathering input now, in preparation for a draft of the revised plan to be ready by the fall of this year. Three public meetings were already held to gather public input. Did you know about them? Did you attend? The county has also prepared a questionnaire asking for input. For a copy, call the County Planning Department at 302.395.5400, or the Sierra Club office at 302.425.4911. We will be working with the County to set up additional informational meetings in the near future.

The Delaware Sierra Club has a number of concerns about the current comprehensive plan. The most important of these are:

- ▲ The New Castle County growth zone is much too large. There is no way that infrastructure, open space, transportation needs, new employment sites, and open space can adequately be provided for in an area extending from Bear-Glasgow to Odessa.
- ▲ Much greater emphasis should be placed on public transportation. Over and over we prove that building more roads leads to more traffic, which increases the need for more roads: an endless cycle. On the other hand, use of public transportation is increasing and needs to be encouraged.

- ▲ Better coordination with the State on plans for new growth.
- ▲ Planning commercial space with design standards, to meet the needs of new residential communities, without clogging highways with an endless pattern of strip malls.

Please participate in the process of updating the County Comprehensive Plan. It is here, not at the hearing for a subdivision, that you can make the greatest difference. – *Jim Steffens 239-9601*

Kent County Planning and Zoning

Please add your comment to the County's comprehensive plan update!

Take a few minutes to visit the Kent County web site to view the County's comprehensive plan update. At this time the county is soliciting feedback concerning the proposed changes to the growth plan.

This is your opportunity to take action and help make a difference. If the low number of responses to the last survey is typical, those of Sierra Club members will weigh heavily when the data are examined. Keep in mind that Kent County has no meaningful riparian corridor protection ordinances, lacks any meaningful environmental protection mechanisms, and has no coastal zone overlay protection.

If you have questions you may contact Boyd White at 335-1323 or boraxo@prodigy.net.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Kent County Sierra Club members who participated in last fall's Kent County Comprehensive Plan survey. I mailed 100 questionnaires and 32 of you responded.

Below I have listed the results of several section of the fall survey. You might find the results of interest.

Land-Use Regulation The responses garnered responses of extremely important and important, combined, of above 70% for all nine questions. They are as follows:

| Query | Percent* |
|---|----------|
| Drinking water protection | 95.3 |
| Surface water protection | 92.9 |
| Air-quality protection | 90.5 |
| Maintain growth zone/area | 88.0 |
| Subdivision design standards | 85.9 |
| Public testimony for subdivisions outside GZs | 85.5 |
| Maximum number of subdivisions in areas | 84.8 |
| Simplify the county Zoning Ordinance | 78.0 |
| Historic preservation | 73.3 |

continued on the next page

Sprawl - Kent County Continued from previous page

Kent County Survey Data

Some highlights of opinions expressed by respondents to the Fall 2000 survey are presented below. The data presented were arbitrarily selected because they show the most dramatic responses (those of 70% or greater or 30% or less who rated an item as extremely important and important, combined.)

Although the responses to survey questions are of great interest – especially since they may be used for county planning purposes – sample sizes were small and the questions were so worded that some responses elicited may lack statistical validity. Total responses received pertaining to any query ranges from 178-197, with the exception of the question on endangered species.

*Percent of responses rating the issue extremely important and important, combined.

The Environment Of the ten queries all generated responses of extremely important and important, combined, of above 70%.

| Query | Percent* |
|--|----------|
| Ground water (well) protection | 97.3 |
| Protecting lakes and streams from pollution | 97.3 |
| Leaking underground storage tanks | 93.1 |
| Septic system contamination of ground water | 93.0 |
| Coastal zone protection | 92.3 |
| Soil erosion in Kent County streams | 90.7 |
| Contaminated lands cleanup | 89.7 |
| Promoting biodiversity issues and protection | 85.2 |
| Endangered species protection | 76.8 |
| Protection of forested habitat for hunting | 72.2 |

Economic Development Nine questions and three responses meet our criteria.

| Query | Percent* |
|--|----------|
| Pursue business parks to locate new businesses centrally | 74.6 |
| Increase the number of convenience stores | 26.0 |
| Increase the number of shopping centers | 25.2 |

Subdivisions Of 19 questions in this section, five received responses above 70%.

| Query | Percent* |
|--|----------|
| Subdivisions should be visually buffered | 84.3 |
| Developers should pay for effect on roads | 84.2 |
| Mandate hookup to public sewer system | 82.6 |
| Construction should not destroy existing trees | 73.1 |
| Should be open space between neighborhoods | 71.1 |

Transportation There were five questions and four generated responses of more than 70 %.

| Query | Percent* |
|--|----------|
| State should invest in service roads | 83.5 |
| Should be less access by new buildings on Rt 13 & 113 | 80.9 |
| Should be scenic roads that would limit number of new homes along the road | 76.1 |
| Should be fewer traffic lights on major roads | 74.6 |

Sussex County - Curb it!

To join in the worthy effort to curb irresponsible sprawl in Sussex County, be a part of the Chapter's Southern Delaware Group (The Group) at Sussex County Council meetings (Tues., 10 a.m.), Planning and Zoning Commission (second and fourth Tues., 7 p.m.), Board of Adjustment (Mon., 7 p.m.), and Comprehensive Plan reviews (various dates and times). For further information, please contact: Rich Anthony at 645-1732 or E-mail: richardanthony@justice.com. or Terri Usuki at 436-3653 / 436-4042 or E-mail: mail to: tamaki@prodigy.net.

The Group addressed five zoning issues which conflicted with the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan, posed direct and future adverse impacts to air and water quality, public safety (transportation and fire suppression concerns), and quality-of-life issues. Three of the five proposals have been approved; however, all approvals resulted in restricted densities.

Pending Developments

Woods Cove: NW of Rehoboth Beach near Midway, 214-unit RPC on 30.63 acres, rezoning from AR-1 to medium-density residential (MR) with a residential planned community (RPC) overlay. The negative aspects include:

1. Primary roads and intersections are already operating at substandard levels of service.
2. Water quality/quantity concerns generated by increasing population density in this area.
 - Wells supplying potable water exceed maximum nitrate levels by more than 30 %.*
 - There is concern as to whether there is adequate water quantity to provide both drinking water and fire suppression capability.*
3. The proposal is incompatible with the spirit, stated intent, and letter of the Sussex County Comprehensive Plan.

Balsamo-Norino proposal: Rt 54 just east of recently approved 1,700- unit development, 85 units on 19.6 acres with 43 % (8.35 acres) 404 wetlands. The Group cited several negative aspects, as follows:

- Inadequacies exist in the application, including a lack of data by which to assess the proposed stormwater-management system and the lack of any documentation addressing the proposals secondary, cumulative, and future foreseeable effect on the wetlands.
- Rt 54 is the primary east-west coastal evacuation route serving this area. This road is already used above its capacity; therefore, additional traffic load would further compromise public safety.

Upcoming Activities June 12th – The Group will present testimony in support of the rezoning moratorium requested by the Association of Coastal Towns.

Continuing Activities – The Group will monitor potable water quantity and quality, fire protection, and the various proposed upgrades to the area's public water supply.

* Source document: Tidewater Utility Master Plan

Senator Carper calls to drop plans to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Sierra Club applauds Senator Carper's leadership in the fight to safeguard the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. "It is clear that Senator Carper recognizes that we can pursue an energy policy that will help American consumers while still protecting America's greatest natural treasures," said Debbie Heaton, conservation chair of the Delaware Chapter.

In a letter released May 16, Senator Carper was joined by 33 Democratic Senators urging President Bush to omit the controversial provision from the plan, calling it a distraction "from real answers to our energy needs." In a separate letter, Maine's two Republican Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe urged Bush "in the strongest possible terms to omit from your national energy policy any recommendation to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil and gas drilling."

The two letters to Bush are just the latest objections to allowing drilling in what conservationists have called "America's Serengeti." A USA Today/CNN/Gallup Poll in mid-May

found that although 94 percent of Americans believe the nation faces a serious energy problem, they favor conservation over production. Investment in renewable energy sources had twice as much support as increasing nuclear power. And 57 percent of those polled opposed the proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska to oil drilling (only 38 percent approve).

Contrary to assertions that drilling in the refuge can be done safely, Heaton noted that Alaska's own Department of Environment Conservation attributes 55 contaminated waste sites on the North Slope to oil development and records an average of nearly 400 spills a year to the industry. The Bush administration's proposal would allow drilling in the very area the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service considers the "biological heart" of the entire refuge.

"We applaud Senator Carper for his leadership in crafting a balanced national energy policy that protects our nation's last great Arctic wilderness. We urge Senator Biden and Congressman Castle to continue the fight to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for future generations."

To those who came through for us!

Our special thanks go out to Tim O'Connor for the donation of a computer to the chapter office; to Wilmington Trust for a photocopier and to a Dover business for the donation of two filing cabinets!

We are currently seeking an electric stapler to help with newsletter assembly, and an eight foot folding table with two chairs for outdoor events. Give us a call if you have one to donate!

Bi-weekly recycling pick-up service

Recycling Express (RE) is offering an introductory 20% discount to Chapter members that sign-up for residential curbside or commercial recycling collection service. RE has collection routes in Northern New Castle County from Newark to Wilmington. Residential service features biweekly collection of glass, plastics, metal cans and newspaper. The current monthly fee is \$12. RE also offers commercial "in office" collections. Contact (302) 892-9870 for more information and to sign up for our services. Mention the Sierra Club to receive your discount.

SC 2002 Calendars - order now!

The gorgeous 2002 wilderness (\$10.95) and engagement calendar (\$11.95) designs have just been released and are now available for ordering. The chapter has set a goal of selling 200 calendars this year. Please help us toward this goal by ordering your calendars through the chapter office (425-4911) or print out and mail in the form on the chapter website by Sept. 30.



Preserve the Future

Not everyone can make a large gift to protect the environment during their lifetime, but you can preserve the environment for generations to come by remembering the Sierra Club in your will.

There are many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter.

For more information and confidential assistance contact: John Calaway, Director, Gift Giving, Sierra Club, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Get outdoors and explore!



It's summertime, and a great time to get active with Sierra Club outings. Our annual picnic will be September 16 (the last Sunday of summer) at Killens Pond State Park. Besides all the usual food and drinks, we are planning a nature hike around the pond, and some paddling on the water to work up an appetite. Anyone interested in helping to plan the details is welcome.

You may have noticed that the number of outings has decreased. We are cutting back to only one per month until we get some new outings leaders. This year only Matt Urban, Shiray Shipley and myself have led outings. We really need more people to help. It doesn't take much effort to plan or lead a trip. I always encourage trip leaders to run an outing on an activity you are comfortable with, whether it's a nature walk, hiking, or bird watching. If you enjoy the outdoors and you are doing these activities anyway, it's even more fun to share them with others.

Please contact me by telephone or e-mail if you can devote a few hours to helping people get out and enjoy nature. Thanks, and I'll see you outside! – *Dan Soeder*

Paddle on Prime Hook Creek Canoe Trail
June 10, 2001 (Sunday) Noon-5 p.m., Waples Mill Pond to the Refuge / Leader: Dan Soeder (home:

302-284-2613, e-mail: Djsoeder54@cs.com)

Assawoman Canal paddle

July 7, 2001, starting at 8 a.m. Fenwick Island State Park to Indian River Bay. Kayak rentals will be available. High winds cancel; date/time may change (check website or call for information). Leader: Shiray Shipley (302) 655-2977; s_shipley@hotmail.com.

Inland Bays Circle Cycle Tour

July 29, 2001 Sun. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Delaware Seashore State Park (Tower Road parking lot). 45-mile bike ride around the Inland Bays to lay out a course for a possible cycling fundraiser next summer. Helmets required!

Leader: Dan Soeder (302) 284-2613; Djsoeder54@cs.com.

Backpacking the Appalachian Trail in the Pine Grove Furnace/ Caledonia State Park area, PA

August 11-12, 2001 (Overnight: Sat./Sun. Moderate to strenuous hiking, overnight backpacking equipment required. Leader: Matt Urban (302) 661-2050; matt@mobiushnm.com.

Logan House Socials

June 21, July 19, and August 16, 2001

from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Kelly's Logan House, Wilmington

Join the chapter outings committee for a social meeting at the Logan House. There will be drink and food specials, and a table set up to display chapter tee shirts, bags, and Sierra literature. New members and those thinking of joining are especially welcomed.

Celebrate 100 years of Sierra Club Outings!

More than 300 domestic and international outdoor adventures allow members to experience the spectacular landscapes and inspiring qualities of the wilderness. Explore, enjoy and protect. www.sierraclub.org/outings/national. outings@sierraclub.org 415.977.5522.

Sierra Club 2001 Election Results

Reported by Marvin Baker,
Chief Inspector of Election,
for the Inspectors

* Elected to board or
winning question

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Nick Aumen* | 43,714 |
| Ed Dobson* | 38,799 |
| Jan O'Connell* | 38,048 |
| Jennifer Ferenstein* | 37,858 |
| Dave Wells* | 31,483 |
| Chuck McGrady | 28,948 |
| Marcia Hanscom | 27,650 |
| Joan Willey | 27,049 |
| Richard Fiddler | 22,294 |

Ballot Question One: Urban Sprawl/Population Policy Yes: 28,853 No: 33,968*

Ballot Question Two: Public Land Grazing Policy Yes: 20,570 No: 41,559*

Election Summary

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| Total Ballots Mailed | 683,007 |
| Valid Returns for Directors | 66,847 |
| Invalids Returns for Directors | 621 |
| Percent Total Returns | 9.8% |
| Voting By Mail | 58,418 |
| Voting By Internet | 9,050 |
| Total | 67,468 |

Executive Committee of the Board of Directors

Jennifer Ferenstein, President
Charlie Ogle, Vice President
Jan O'Connell, Secretary
Nick Aumen, Treasurer
Larry Fahn, Fifth Officer