

Delaware Sierra News

A Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware ❖ March/April/May 2001

Sustainability: an Earth scientist's perspective

by Dan Soeder

Matt Urban did a great job putting together a discussion on the issue of environmental sustainability, and what we can do to help. For those of you who aren't familiar with this concept, sustainability simply means looking at what is required from the environment to support a human being on the planet. Each of us needs some land dedicated to food production, some forest for paper and wood products, some land to live on, a share of the clean drinking water supply, and so forth. The sustainability issue occurs when you add up all these things for the average North American or European, and then multiply them by the 6 billion plus people in the world. You soon realize that there is nowhere near enough land, water, food or anything else to support this many people in an American Dream lifestyle. Unfortunately, that is what most of the world aspires to.

The discussion ended with some examples of things that can be done by individuals to help lessen our impact on the planet. While solar houses, photovoltaic cells, and recycling are all important, they're really only a drop in the bucket compared with the difference big corporations and producers of goods can make. I suggest that we need to re-think our approach, and that while we should still talk the talk and walk the walk, we ought to look at ways of doing things in a bigger, more meaningful manner.

All the recycling of plastic soda bottles by Sierra members and all the other environmentally conscious individuals in the

Keep your eye on the water

by Debbie Heaton

Water. We take it for granted until it is not there or it is not the quality/quantity (choose one) we expect. Most people don't really seem to understand the effect their life style choices have on their water. And those who do choose to act to protect their water have a convoluted state and county system to figure out.

We are starting a new year and a relatively dry one at that. What will the summer bring? Will other communities have pollution problems similar to those that the Llangollen area suffered from in late 2000?

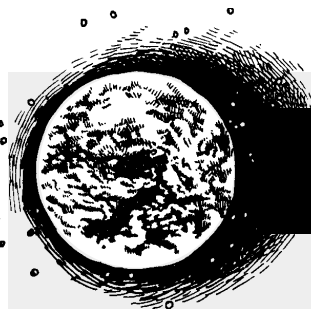
With this new year comes a new governor. How will Governor Minner approach the state's water challenges in the coming year? She has been bequeathed several situations that she needs to resolve and there are others that are waiting in the wings to pop up.

Already on the list:

Total maximum daily loads (TMDL)—Court-ordered work is slowly progressing throughout the state. The goal is to help rivers and streams meet

Continued on page 4

Continued on page 3



Earth Day Trolley Square Clean-Up

Saturday,
April 21, 2001
Noon-3 p.m.

always ready to help out anyone in need, so in his memory, we are going to give something back to the community by cleaning up Trolley Square. We will work with the local business community and neighbors to clear public areas of trash and debris. We will meet at the Logan House at noon and teams will be assigned sections of the neighborhood to clean. Trash bags, hand soap and food will be provided. After the clean-up, there will be a **free Earth Day concert** for all participants at the Logan House the night of the event. Non-participants will be asked to donate \$5 for the concert, with the proceeds to be split between the Big Bill Foundation (for troubled youths) and Sierra Club. If you are interested in helping with the logistics, pre-planning, and scouting areas for cleaning, please contact Matt Urban 302-475-9880 *17, home: 302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com or Rob Mayer at the Logan House.

Kelly's Logan House and the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club are co-hosting the first annual **"Big Bill" Earth Day Clean-up** and fundraiser at Trolley Square in Wilmington. Big Bill was a much-beloved bartender at Logan House who died unexpectedly in a falling accident. Bill was

Rotten to the Corps

by Jim Steffens

“the ‘build it and they will come’ approach, which the Corps has used to justify river and harbor projects all over the country, is simply wrong.”

Success on the C&D Canal

On January 22 the Phila. District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced that the proposed project, to deepen the C&D Canal and its approach channels to the Baltimore harbor, is being deferred and placed on the “inactive” list. Thus ends four years and nearly \$10 million of studies for a project championed by the Maryland Port Authority, but which could not withstand careful and painstaking economic analysis. Alarmed by misstatements by the Corps concerning the project, a group of Cecil County, MD citizens began studying the economics of the project and found simple mathematical errors that overstated the benefits of the project by a factor of two. This group won the support of Congressman Wayne Gilchrest, who stood up to his own party and politicians in Maryland to champion the health of the Chesapeake Bay. This group spent thousands of hours to analyze every aspect of the canal’s traffic and its impact on the port of Baltimore. They were able to refute the Corps’ initial economic justification and forced them to re-do the analyses.

In fact, this project sheds light on the economic justification presented by the Corps for deepening Baltimore harbor to 50 ft. With business continuing to decline, the port has never begun to approach the levels of ship traffic used to justify the harbor deepening. Clearly the mere fact of deepening a harbor to 50 ft is insufficient to insure success. The “build it and they will come” approach, which the Corps has used to justify river and harbor projects all over the country, is simply wrong.

More work to do on the Delaware Deepening

Following nine years of requests that the Corps apply for a state permit before beginning to deepen the main shipping channel in the Delaware River, the Corps has formally applied

for a permit under Delaware’s Subaqueous Lands Act. The history of Delaware’s request dates to 1992, when Toby Clark, then Secretary of DNREC, and Sarah Cooksey, manager of Delaware’s Coastal Management Program, sent letters to the Corps informing it of its obligations under Delaware law (the Delaware River is Delaware jurisdictional waters from the Pennsylvania line to the Delaware Bay). Following a workshop to acquaint interested parties in the project, DNREC will hold public hearings at which the public will be able to comment on the application presented by the Corps. The Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening, an umbrella group of civic and environmental groups from three states, will ensure that all aspects of the project are thoroughly examined during the comment period.

On February 5, Congressman Andrews (D, NJ) held a press conference to announce his intention to request a study of the Del. deepening by the General Accounting Office. Andrews represents portions of Gloucester County, which is scheduled to receive the majority of the dredge spoils generated by the project. He is seeking Congressional co-signers for his request.

The Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening has long sought an independent economic assessment of the project. Studies we have seen have found that the project is without economic merit and will not materially benefit the ports of Philadelphia and Camden. One such study, performed by economists hired by the Delaware River Port Authority, the local sponsor of the project, has been disavowed by the DRPA.

What You Can Do

Call or write Senators Biden and Carper and Congressman Castle and urge them to support Andrew’s request. Only a GAO study will unequivocally define the need to dredge the Delaware, generate 33 million cubic yards of dredge spoils, and consume over \$300 million.

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, <i>chair</i>	239-9601
Matt Urban, <i>vice chair</i>	661-2050
Cornelia Melvin, <i>sect.</i>	945-4708
Terri Tipping, <i>treas.</i>	368-1452
Jay Cooperson	571-0660
Debbie Heaton	378-8501
Jim Russell	239-3319
Boyd White	335-1323

Chapter Appointed Officers

<i>Cons.</i> Debbie Heaton	378-8501
<i>Land Use</i> Jim Steffens	239-9601
<i>Litigation</i> Carl Solberg	492-1225
<i>Membership</i> Al Denio	451-0389
<i>Outings</i> Dan Soeder	284-2613
<i>Pol.</i> Shamba Donovan	368-0174
<i>Recycle</i> Marsha Holler	735-9687
<i>Trans.</i> Bob Bennett	731-4524

Southern Delaware Group Excom

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

SDG Appointed Officers

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

Visit us on the web:

www.delaware.sierraclub.org

their designated uses, such as fishing and swimming. The low-water-flow plan for the Christina River has been approved and plans for the river during high-flow periods is being worked on.

Combined sewer overflow in

Wilmington—Raw sewage in the Brandywine Creek is what happens when sanitary and storm sewers are connected, and there's a tenth of an inch of rain. It is amusing that the state and the city of Wilmington are spending so much money to build the riverfront but seem unable to address the old infrastructure problem that gets more expensive to fix as they continue to ignore it. The city, state and county should all work together to solve the problem—quickly.

Drought relief—The Delaware River Basin Commission has been telling the state to get better prepared, but so far, little is being done except to talk about it. Why fix a leaky roof when it's not raining? Newark is taking some steps with their reservoir plans, but conservation has yet to be called into play except during those hot summer drought months. Are we afraid to recognize that the quantity of water might be limited? Before this happens the state and all three counties should create and support education efforts that make water conservation a greater part of our everyday life.

Unplanned development—Who gets the water? Unchallenged growth across the state will increase the number of people needing water, while paving over, polluting and further stressing the surface and groundwater resources. Sprawl needs to be curbed. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's moratorium on new ground water permits in Salem and Gloucester Counties was imposed as a direct result of Delaware's over-pumping the same aquifers in New Castle County. How long will neighboring states tolerate our squandering of water resources?

Inland Bays and the mysterious appearance last fall of *Chatonella*, which might be linked to the death of millions of fish—Will this summer bring these critters back along with the ever-present sea lettuce? The current DNREC budget requests money to begin to understand and deal with these critters, but the governor has yet to support this portion of the program.

Soon to play a more prominent role:

Salt water intrusion in all coastal areas and

nitrate levels in southern sections of the state—Recent radio ads in the beach resort areas promote bottled water usage because "the water is unsafe to drink." Will the problem get more attention since the advertising trade has picked up on it and has taken it to the airwaves? *The Killam Report* is required reading for those concerned about water in Sussex County. The salty ocean is not very far away from the resorts, and it doesn't take much pumping to bring in the salt. Ask Wildwood, New Jersey, or Ocean City, Maryland. Do we really want to allow greedy developers to overbuild our beaches, contaminate the coastal lagoons and bays with septic effluent, sewage and sediment, and pull out all the fresh water from the ground in the name of profits? There's a difference between making a living and making a killing.

Economics of water between the agricultural, residential and business communities—How much is in the ground and how much can we pump out and still have water tomorrow? When will the legislature fund DNREC with enough money and a mandate to collect proper water usage data? Reporting limits are high, on the order of 50,000 gallons/day for municipal supply wells. This means if 49,999 gallons are pumped, it doesn't get reported to DNREC. With hundreds of small water systems serving small developments across the state, this results in a significant under-reportage of water use. The DNREC staff handling the data is small and overworked. Pumpage figures from the water purveyors are entered into the database without any checking or verification. Water management in Delaware is a nightmare using these numbers. And don't forget that water quantity also plays an important role in fighting fires.

So what will it take to get all of these problems attended to? Two things: your interest and your support for the money and staff to be allocated for many of these programs and needed research. Many of the newsletters have a postcard inserted for you to sign and send to Governor Minner. We hope that you will sign it and send it to her. If your newsletter doesn't have a postcard (there were a limited number available), we hope that you will contact the governor's office and let her know that you support cleaning up the water situation in Delaware. Both money for the TMDL program and her attention and solutions for the other challenges to water quality in Delaware are important.



“Anything else we do to help improve the sustainability of our species on this planet will be overwhelmed by increases in population.”

country keeps a lot of plastic out of landfills. However, this effort is a molehill compared to the mountain of plastic that was saved when McDonalds did away with Styrofoam packaging on their hamburgers a few years ago and returned to simple paper wraps instead. Decisions made in corporate America, by the fast food restaurants, soft drink manufacturers, automakers, utility companies and others make a huge difference in the stresses and strains faced by our environment. Sustainability has to be met head-on at this level of society.

I know a guy who retired in Nevada and now lives in the Philippines. He comes back to the States every once in awhile to pick up some supplies of things they can't get over there. The last time I saw him, he was getting plates and utensils for the nuns at the mission near his home, as well as some decent scotch for the priest. He went to the nearby Salvation Army thrift store and bought a bunch of second-hand men's shirts to use for packing material in the shipping boxes. He explained that the mission would be able to use the shirts as giveaways to the locals, and wouldn't have to deal with the disposal problems of shredded paper, bubble plastic or foam noodles.

Isn't this amazing? Think what a difference it would make to the environment if all the packages shipped all over the world in a day actually used something for packing material that was useful, instead of something that simply has to be thrown away. These are the kinds of corporate decisions I'm talking about. What is this magic packing material? I have no idea, but I bet if somebody thought about it, they'd come up with something. The point is, Sierra members should be doing our best to encourage this kind of thinking in political circles and at the corporate level. Most big companies want to be seen as "good citizens," and might even implement something that costs slightly more if the public relations payoff is worth it.

I've heard a lot of talk lately in the geologic and Earth Science community about the issue of sustainability. Geologists deal with natural resources all the time, and we were some of the first scientists to put the mathematics onto the sustainability question. Geologists also deal with long time periods of Earth's history and the record of life. Guess what? Every time in the past,

when the environment has been stressed to the magnitude imposed over the last 100 years by humans, the result has been mass extinctions and evidence of calamities in the fossil record. From a purely historical point of view, we're in trouble, folks. Big trouble.

There were a couple of sessions devoted to the topic of sustainability at the Geological Society of America meeting last November, and I noted a number of recurring themes. From the presentations and panel discussions, there were three critical issues that came out front and center:

- Population has got to be brought under control. Zero population growth is no longer an option; it is an absolute necessity. Anything else we do to help improve the sustainability of our species on this planet will be overwhelmed by increases in population. You can be pro-life or pro-choice, I don't care, but you can't argue with the math. The mathematics state clearly that population growth cannot continue in its present geometric progression, doubling every 50 years. The double of 6 billion is 12 billion. The Earth will simply not support that many people. Birth control technology and family planning have come a long way, but these need to be more universally accepted, especially in crowded, third-world countries, which are the most poorly-equipped to handle the extra people. The sad truth is that if we don't control our population, nature will control it for us, by way of starvation, disease or war over living space.
- We need new sources of raw materials and new ways to manufacture things. This has to change at a very fundamental chemical and molecular level. Our current process of finding concentrated deposits or ores of materials, melting things down, separating out what we want and then letting it re-solidify is an extremely wasteful and inefficient method of obtaining materials. There are better ways to do this, and the example cited was a tree. A giant redwood is built out of a complex, composite material called wood. Everything a seed needs to build one of the largest trees on Earth comes from the air, water and soil right where it sprouts. The plant cells manufacture, on a molecular level, the various combinations of carbon, oxygen and hydrogen bonds needed to construct the wood for a 500-foot tree. Advances in biotechnology and nanotechnology should allow us to manufacture materials

this way, to order, within 10 to 20 years.

- New sources of electricity are needed. Electricity shortages like those being experienced this winter in California are likely to become the norm everywhere in the future unless new sources of supply are developed. Generating electricity by burning fossil fuels is horribly wasteful, non-sustainable, polluting and inefficient. Burning coal puts more CO₂ per BTU into the atmosphere than any other fossil fuel, because it's mostly carbon. This contributes to greenhouse warming and sulfur in the coal creates acid rain. Oil and natural gas have hydrogen attached to the carbon atoms, and thus put out less CO₂. However, emissions are still significant, and supplies of these fuels are limited. Nuclear electricity does not emit any greenhouse gases and it is still an option, especially given the newer and safer reactor designs that have evolved over the past two decades (all U.S. reactors in service today use the pressurized boiling water design, which dates from the mid-1960's). But nuclear fuel is in short supply without spent fuel reprocessing, and the nuclear waste disposal issue still has not been resolved.

Two options have been discussed for new electric supplies: nuclear fusion using Helium-3, and solar power satellites. Controlled fusion reactions have an advantage over fission by not producing heavy isotopes for disposal and by being easy to shut down. However, they are also very difficult to create, especially compared to the fission reactions used in current nuclear reactors. Of all the fusion combinations tried, helium-3 fusing with tritium (H-3) seems to work the best and easiest. Unfortunately, He-3 is exceedingly rare on Earth compared to the abundant isotope He-4, and the costs of extracting a sufficient quantity from natural gas wells are prohibitive. He-3 does exist in large quantities on the moon, deposited by the sun in the solar wind, and trapped in the lunar soil. He-3 could be mined on the moon, and returned to Earth to make electricity. Several schemes for doing this have been worked out, which involve strip-mining 11 square kilometers of lunar soil to extract one kilogram of He-3., which would provide about a year's worth of power to a 50 megawatt power plant.

A more benign technology is solar power satellites, which orbit high above the Earth, capturing sunlight onto photovoltaic panels to make

electricity, and then beaming the power to Earth using microwaves. This could work, and in fact, Gerard O'Neill figured out the engineering and economic details back in the 1970's. However, a much more robust space program would be needed, with development of new heavy-lift booster to get this equipment into orbit. Significant land areas are also required to intercept the microwaves. But this could be either desert or ocean.

So all is not lost, and there are many things that can be done to bring us into harmony with a sustainable planet. But doing small things will not be enough. Serious problems require serious solutions. We need a sea change in the way our economy operates, and in how energy, materials and goods are made and distributed. This requires decisions by big governments to fund things like space programs or biotechnology research. World governments will also have to do something about the population explosion, whether they like it or not. Birth control must change from pro-choice to no-choice. These changes are as big as any revolution or political upheaval of the 20th Century. It will not be an easy time for anyone. But it must be done, and soon.

Change must be instituted at high levels, and environmental groups like Sierra Club can help by taking an active political and educational role. This is not an arm-wavy, tree-hugger, save-the-whales kind of argument. It's based on hard facts, firm data and solid mathematics. And if we don't start making these changes soon, we won't have resources to make them at all. The next few decades will spell the difference between living in the future, or living in a pre-industrial lifestyle like the Middle Ages. As far as I'm concerned, one turn through the 15th century was enough.

Sierra Club Population-Environment Program Seeks Delaware volunteer

A major task of Club population activists is pressing government to provide funds and to pass legislation commensurate with the task of curbing runaway growth in human numbers. To be effective, the Sierra Club program needs voices in every State including Delaware. If you are interested, contact Todd Daniel, for details. ToddDan@earthlink.net, 770/439-5908, or visit www.sierraclub.org/population. A packet will be sent upon request. An orientation is planned for March 23-25, at the Club's Wash., DC offices.

"...if we don't start making these changes soon, we won't have resources to make them at all."

Your Help is Needed to Protect our Last Wild Forests:

Bush and Congress
Take Aim at
Historic
Conservation
Achievement

Last year, thousands of Sierra Club members wrote letters, attended hearings and spoke out in favor of protecting the last remaining wild areas of our national forests. The Sierra Club and conservationists across the country celebrated on Jan. 5 when President Clinton issued the final decision to protect 58.5 million acres of our national forests, including the last wild areas in Alaska's Tongass, the largest remaining temperate rainforest on earth, from logging and road-building.

The release of the final Wild Forest Protection Plan marked the end of a public process that included more than 600 public meetings and spanned three years. The administration received more than one million public comments in support of protecting wild forests.

Now, the timber industry and their allies in Congress and the Bush administration are gearing up to overturn, undermine and dismantle this historic conservation achievement. The timber, oil and gas and off-road vehicle industries want to continue taxpayer-subsidized road building and logging in our special places.

Our Last Wild Forests are Under Attack

President Bush has already issued an order to delay the implementation of the wild forest protection rule until mid-May and the timber industry is developing a strategy to dismantle wild forest protection. An effort to dismantle the wild forest plan is the first of many expected attacks on our natural heritage. A strong win for our wild forests will put him on notice that the public cares about our wildlands and wildlife.

Your Letters Are Needed Now to Help Protect Our Wild Forests

Your help is needed again to make sure our public forests are protected and not logged. To turn back all these attacks, we must make sure that President Bush and the new congress hear from the public that we want our wild forests protected! You can help by writing your Representative and Senators and urging them to oppose all efforts to undermine the historic wild forest conservation plan. Personal letters are most effective, so please take a few minutes to dash off a note expressing your support for protecting national forests. Thank you!

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.

Please order the items I have indicated below. I have enclosed a check made out to the Sierra Club for the total amount.

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZipCode _____

NUMBER OF ITEMS

T-shirt (*adult sizes*) ___M ___L ___XL

Totebag

COST

shirts x \$16.00 = \$ _____

bags x \$16.00 = \$ _____

I will pick up my items, please call me at () when they are in.
(no shipping cost)

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.

Your choice in the upcoming Sierra Club national election

It is important that we do all we can to vote in this national election. In recent years, only a little over 10% of our members have voted. Given our substantial financial and labor commitment in Club resources to ensuring the democratic traditions of our Club in selecting its leadership at all levels, it is both the duty and privilege of our members to participate.

Marvin Baker,
Chief Inspector of Election

Below is the **Sprawl/Population Question**, one of two questions, that will appear on the upcoming Sierra Club national election ballot. The Delaware Chapter Executive Committee voted in January to support the Board's current position to oppose changing the policy. Chapter leaders felt that the board already has both national population and sprawl committees and has asked them to find common messages for their campaigns. This new policy would mean that all sprawl materials must carry a population message. Population is only one of the many forces promoting suburban sprawl. The sprawl campaign needs to have the flexibility to craft appropriate messages for different communities across the country.

Please take a few minutes to review this information. You can find out more by visiting the Club's web site (sierraclub.org) or by calling a member of the Chapter excom.

Sprawl/Population Question

"Shall the Sierra Club emphasize both regional and national population stabilization as essential components in all Sierra Club sprawl materials and programs?"

Current policy statement

At its September 2000 meeting, in order to address the same issues raised by the ballot question, the Club's Board of Directors adopted the following policy:

The relationship between sprawl and growth is complex. That complexity, including factors identified by local Sierra Club entities, should be fully and meaningfully reflected in

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 **May 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 Hope Russell, with the help of Jim Steffens, Matt Urban and Mike Casale. Contributing writers as noted. This newsletter was printed on recycled/post consumer paper with soy based ink by the Dover Post Company, Dover, Delaware.



materials developed by the sprawl campaign.

Sierra Club founder John Muir said "when we try to pick out anything in the universe we find it is hitched to everything else." Thus, the actions we take on behalf of one campaign have the potential to affect our other campaigns. Ideally this synergy will result in our campaigns reinforcing and supporting each other.

The potential for this synergy is present in our Sprawl and Population campaigns. Clearly, there are many locations where the impacts of sprawl are greatly exacerbated by population growth. But sprawl is a pattern of increasingly inefficient and wasteful land use that is devastating environmental and social conditions, not only in regions where population is growing rapidly, but also in regions where it is not. Some places are consuming land at record rates, and yet have stable or declining populations.

The Board urges and expects both campaigns to be alert to opportunities for mutually reinforcing messages, campaign materials and efforts.

The Board recommends a "NO" vote on this question.

Coastal Defense Fund started

Southern Delaware Group joined with the Citizen's Coalition and Sussex Women in Motion to form *Save Our Coastal Communities*. This new group and its founders will be working to research, educate and support court battles against projects harmful to Sussex County's quality of life. Their first meetings were held in early February and more are planned for later this spring and summer. For more information or to make donations, contact Rich Anthony at 302-645-1732.



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: Sage Kuhn, Sierra Club Planned Giving Program, 85 Second Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

DE Chapter Outings Committee



Hello everyone. We have some awesome outings planned for the spring. I hope you'll notice the greater variety in activities. We have outings ranging from an easy nature hike around Killen's Pond, to a more vigorous trail maintenance exercise at White Clay Creek State Park, and culminating with a fantastic three days of serious hiking in the Mojave Desert. We're helping to clean-up at Trolley Square in Wilmington for Earth Day, and we're camping for a weekend to investigate the Sustainability Center at Penn State. We tried to come up with something for everyone, so there's no excuse to stay inside on a nice spring day.

If you have an idea for an outing, please let me know. The committee is always seeking new things to do. We are still appealing for more people to help lead outings. If this is something you'd like to do, please contact me, or call Shiray in the Chapter office. The Chapter will pay for the required First Aid/CPR training for outings leaders. The more help we have, the easier it is on all of us.

We are going to have more of a conservation/education and service focus on our outings. There's no reason why we can't combine fun and learning. In fact, most of the best learning experiences I've ever had were pretty much fun as well.

We are also trying to combine our outings and service efforts with other local groups, such as the Delaware Nature Society and the Wilmington Trails Club. There's no reason for us to compete with these groups for time and attention. It is much more productive to cooperate. Shiray is making contacts, as is Diana, our newest committee member. Hopefully, we can set up some joint activities in the future.

Thank you for all your participation and support, and I'll see you outside! – Dan Soeder

UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Activities key:

(S) Social activities for adults, easy to moderately strenuous with an optional social function afterward.

(A) Adult activities: open to adults only, strenuous and too difficult for children.

(F) Family activities: open to all ages, generally easy with a family theme.

☞ Please contact the trip leader listed to RSVP for the event.

☞ For cold weather outings, please dress properly and be certain to stay with the group at all times.

☞ Often socials can be scheduled at the conclusion of a trip. Ask the trip leader about the possibilities.

(F) Killens Pond nature hike

March 11, 2001 (Sunday), 2-4 p.m., Killens Pond State Park, Felton, DE / Leader: Dan Soeder (home: 302-284-2613, e-mail: Djsoder54@cs.com)

Dan will lead an easy hike on the nature trail, a 2-mile loop, around Killens Pond in Kent County. We will make stops to observe the woods and the pond in late winter/early spring and see how plants and animals are coping.

(F) White Clay Creek service trip

March 18, 2001 – Sunday, White Clay Creek State Park, / Leader: Shiray Shipley (work: 302-425-4911, home: 302-655-2977, e-mail: s_shipley@hotmail.com)

We will work to help clean up and repair trails in White Clay Creek State Park. Please contact Shiray for more information.

(A) Mojave Desert Hiking

March 30 – April 1, 2001 (Friday-Sunday) from Las Vegas, Nevada / Leader: Dan Soeder (home: 302-284-2613/e-mail: Djsoder54@cs.com) **Reserve your spot by March 12! Limit 12!!**

Springtime is the best time to see the deserts of the southwest. We will take day-hikes out of Las Vegas. The hiking will be moderate to difficult, and will include some steep, high altitude trails and some rock climbing. We will learn about the geology of the area, land use and water issues, and see first-hand the intense urban sprawl and unrestrained development of Las Vegas, the fastest growing city in the U.S. Attendees will be

responsible for their own travel, meals, hotel costs and a share of the cost of a rental vehicle for field trips.

(F) Penn State Sustainability Center/Green Design Conference & Camping

April 7-8, 2001 (Sat.-Sun., leave Friday mid-day), State College, PA. Leader: Matt Urban (home: 302-661-2050, e-mail: matt@mobus-nm.com)

We will be traveling for a visit to the Penn State

Sustainability Center in State College, PA. We will either camp at the center or a local camping area on Fri. and Sat. night. The conference will showcase innovation and sustainability in an exposition of architecture, engineering,

Continued on next page

Chapter Supporters 2000

A special thanks goes out to these noteworthy individuals that showed their support of our chapter's efforts through their contribution. Our chapter's limited funding

comes from a number of sources, but the most meaningful donations come from individuals in our local area. These contributions directly benefit our state chapter, and immediately go to work toward conservation and advocacy initiatives that have direct impact on our state's environment. With this in mind, please be on the lookout for our special March fundraising letter which will be arriving in your mail shortly. When this letter arrives, please give generously to show your support and concern for issues that are so close to home. With your assistance we really can make a difference!

Eagle Club (\$200+)

Joan Dennean
Terri Tipping
Austin Okie

Peter S. Martin
Mr. & Mrs. Purnell
David Carini
Joseph & Valerie
West

Theodore H.
Projector
Carol Stewart
A. Roke Lieberman
James Conway

David Lessner
Rober F. Brown
Joseph C. Reed
Arlene Roberts
Shirley Cupery

Regina Katz
Marta Blackhurst
Jane Stewart
Beth Eisenhour
Phil Troxler

Osprey Club

(\$100-199)

Michael S. Honegger
Boyd & Debbie
White
Eugenia M. Nichols
Grace Grant
Mike Casale
James Markham

Jim Lewis
Roger C. Williamson
Debbie & Clay
Heaton
Robert & Nancy
Edelen
John H. Taylor
James E. See
Joy Anne Lindsey
Roy Parks
Terry Dannemann

Steven S. Hegedus
Joseph A. Shields
Joe D. Druliner
Mildred Gaddis
Michael Gritz
R.W. Wilson
George Hart
Dr. & Mrs. Alexander
Robert Jones
Jane M. Stone
Sonja M. Frey
Kathryn Blair
Randy Tiffany
Daniel L. Laughman
John S. McClure

David Greer
Peter M. Tuhy
Dr. Scott Rosenthal
Olive Walsh
J. Pennel Fernald
Timothy O'Connor
Jack Pingree
Frederick Kelly
George F. Jahm
J.D. & K.L.

Dr. Sadie Salim
Alvan Donnan
Alden Jenkins
Susan W. Jonas
Stephen Ross
Jim & Ester Steffens
Seymour Flinn
Sandra Proctor
F. Gregory Gause
Mr. & Mrs. Charles
Roberston

Plover Club (\$50-99)

Christy McEville
Gene & Joanne
Danoff
Suzanne R. Baker

Chapter Supporters

Julian Winslow
John S. Wood
Katherine S. Mifflin

Morningred
Elizabeth Pertzoff
Chris Wagner
Mr. & Mrs. Hoegger
Elizabeth Archer

landscape/garden design, and the creative arts. For information visit: <http://www.psu.edu/dept/cs/>

(S) Trolley Square Clean-Up

April 21, 2001 (Saturday), Noon-3 p.m., Kelly's Logan House, Wilmington. See page one for details

(A) 28th Annual 100-Kilometer One-Day Hike

May 5, 2001 (Saturday) Wash., D.C. to Harpers Ferry, W.VA / Sponsored by the Sierra Club's Metropolitan Washington Regional Outings Program **Get into training now—and register by April 30!** The hike starts at 3 a.m. at the Thompson Boat Center (near the Watergate) and ends—much later—at the American Youth Hostel near Harpers Ferry. If the 100K seems daunting, sign up for the Semi-100K. Visit: www.onedayhike.org

(S) Disk Golf at Lums Pond

May 6, 2001 (Sunday), Lums Pond State Park, time to be determined, / Leader: Matt Urban (work: 302-475-9880 *17, home: 302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com) Experienced players and novices are welcome.

(F) Hickory Run State Park Hike

May 12, 2001 (Saturday) 1-5 p.m., Hickory Run State Park, PA Leader: Dan Soeder (home: 302-284-2613, e-mail: Djsoeder54@cs.com) This park in Penna. is in the foothills of

the Poconos and just north of the Lehigh Valley. There are lots of hiking trails, including one through an ancient boulder field left from the last Ice Age.

(F) National Trails Day service trip

June 2, 2001 – Saturday, Location to be announced / Leader: Shiray Shipley (work: 302-425-4911, home: 302-655-2977, e-mail: s_shipley@hotmail.com) Celebrate the nation's growing network of trails by adopting a trail to improve or repair. Please mark your calendar.

(F) 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)

We have numerous fun and interesting outings planned for this summer and fall. Ideas include a paddle around Burtons Island in Rehoboth Bay, a bicycle outing at Valley Forge National Historical Park and down the Schuylkill River bike trail, a canoe/camping trip through Delaware Water Gap, a conservation paddle down the Murderkill from Frederica to Bowers Beach, and many more. Please join us!

Meetings & Opportunities

Misc. Seeking volunteers for newsletter editor, political, outings and membership committees (See website for more info.) ▲ Need Pentium II, 200MHz or better PC computer and 2 and 4 drawer file cabinets in good condition for our Chapter office. Call Shiray at 302-425-4911 ▲ Keep those Genuardi's receipts coming!

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
March 13, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Meeting - April 11, 2001 / 7p.m.

Chapter Executive Committee Meeting
May 8, 2001, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Southern Delaware Group Executive Committee Contact Sallie Callanen for info.

Delaware Chapter Change of Address Form

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Membership # (see label below) _____

Please send this coupon to **Sierra Club**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.

Join today—Celebrate 100 years of Sierra Club Outings!



Join and receive a FREE Member's Backpack!

New Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

MasterCard Visa Exp. Date /

Cardholder name _____

Card number _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 (per person)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and for \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter. Dues are not tax deductible. Mail to: **Sierra Club**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Frip No. F94QW5800-1

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WILMINGTON, DE
PERMIT NO. 740

Delaware Chapter
402 Goldspring Run, Newark, DE 19711

