

E-News You Can Use

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A. Events & Socials

1. Tributary Action Teams Conference: register by May 4, Conference is May 12

Registration is due by Friday, May 4 for the 5th Annual Delaware Tributary Action Teams Conference, to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 12 at the Rusty Rudder in Dewey Beach. The conference is free; registration is required. The conference will feature a day of field trips on the bay and around the Inland Bays Watershed to take a closer look at active concerns and functioning projects within the watershed.

Presentations will be given during bus and boat travel.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. To register or for more information, visit

www.gaelwolf.com/dnrec/conference_reg.htm, or contact Jennifer Bowman, Division of Water Resources, 302-739-9939.

2. Social in Dover, May 5 @ 6:30 PM

All members and their guests are invited. 6:30p, order off the menu, cash bar. At The Lobby House; 9 E Loockerman St; Dover, DE 19901; Tel: 302-741-2420

3. Social in Newark, May 14 @ 7 PM

All members and their guests are invited. 7p, order off the menu, cash bar. At Home Grown Café; 125 E Main St; Newark, DE 19711; 302-266-6993

4. Elk Neck Camp overnight, Saturday, May 19

Sandy beaches, marshlands and heavily wooded bluffs comprise the peninsula formed by the North East and Elk Rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay, where this park is located. Several trails meander through the diversified topography, revealing the great variety of plant and animal life. An easy walking trail to Turkey Point Lighthouse provides a view of the Elk River and the Chesapeake Bay. Contact Jenny Egan to sign up 302-540-4546 or jennifermegan28@msn.com.

B. Political Action

1. Tell Carper to vote for Higher Fuel Economy Standards

The Senate Commerce Committee will vote on May 8th on the Feinstein-Snowe Ten-in Ten Fuel Economy Act. You can help make sure it passes by telling our Senator Tom Carper to raise fuel economy standards. Tell him that you care about global warming, the environment, and energy security. Phone him at: Wilmington: 302-573-6291; Dover: 302-674-3308; Georgetown: 302-856-7690; and/or e-mail him through the following website: <http://carper.senate.gov/aemail.cfm>

2. Last Chance to Support Wind Energy in Delaware

You've heard about the benefits to wind energy. Now it's time for the Public Service Commission (PSC) & the State Agencies to direct Delmarva Power to negotiate with Bluewater Wind. There is no risk or public expense in taking this next step as the PSC will still need to approve any contract with Bluewater Wind. Taking the next step will make the most of the opportunity created by the General Assembly & tax dollars already spent evaluating the proposals. Call the Governor at 1-800-292-9570. Contact your state senator and state representative. See http://www.bluewaterwind.com/de_help.htm for more details.

C. Volunteer Opportunities

1. Fill out our volunteer sign-up form

If you have not, please fill out our volunteer sign-up form at Delaware.sierraclub.org/survey

2. Tabling for the Sierra Club

"Tabling" is a time-honored tradition among environmental nonprofits, including/especially the Sierra Club, as the oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization in America. Tabling involves setting up a table display presenting our worthwhile causes/concerns/actions and exceptional club/organization, offering an abundance of free publications, sometimes selling pertinent items like CFLs, inviting people to sign a petition/be on a mailing list, but, most of all, meeting/greeting, persuading/informing, and encouraging membership/commitment. Tabling happens anywhere that people are gathered by design, be it a Horseshoe Crab Festival or a symposium to explore the opportunities of retirement. The groups attending gatherings, large or small, always have potential kindred spirits, and it's the Sierra Club's tablers' job to ferret them out. All materials are provided, just bring a positive outlook. At the end of the day, it's a lot of fun, a great way to help the Sierra Club, and a volunteer opportunity suited to everyone. So, is there anyone for tabling? Anyone know of a gathering that needs tabling? Please contact me, June Satterfield, at 302.653.6596 or junesatterfield@juno.com if you would like to participate, know of an event, or just want more information. I would really appreciate some help. No experience is necessary! Thanks.

3. May 19 – Inland Bays Cleanup

The Delaware Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Section in Sussex County, along with the Center for the Inland Bays and the Division of Parks and Recreation, will be hosting the Third Annual Cleanup of the Inland Bays beginning at 9 a.m. and finishing up about 3 p.m., Saturday, May 19.

Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in advance, as lunch and t-shirts will be provided. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Debbe Passwaters at 302-856-2656 or debbe0904@mchsi.com or Marie Burke at 302-934-9495 or pebble128@aol.com.

4. Volunteers Needed to help staff Newark recycling venture in late May

Students living on- and off-campus and local residents can clean out their rooms and make a difference at the

same time with Newark's Town & Gown Environmental Cooperative initiative, "UDon't Need It?" Beginning Thursday, May 18, and ending Monday, June 5, local residents and students can give away unwanted items and pick up new ones, as well as donate food, clothing and shoes. See <http://www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2006/may/dispose051706.html> for more details.

Furniture, appliances, clothing, etc. will all be taken to the Curtis Paper Mill site. The site will need to be staffed. Anyone interested in helping staff the site for a morning, afternoon, or evening – please contact David Matushik at davidmatushik@greendelawarerecycling.com

D. News & More

1. Calculate your ecological footprint

Make sure to check out our website and click the link to calculate your ecological footprint!

<http://delaware.sierraclub.org/>

2. Featured Sierra Club member in action: Al Denio fighting pollution

Al Denio of Newark is the Delaware Sierra Club's Anti-Pollution Chair. This week he met with Ravi Rangan of DNREC... "The meeting was to request an update on the very large pollution releases from Valero from April 15 to 25. Ravi said that Valero has 30 days to file a report which we shall be able to obtain. Then begins the LONG process at DNREC to make a decision on penalties. Then it goes to A.G. Biden to make the final decision. The problem is that this process takes forever: Justice delayed means justice denied!!! Meanwhile, gasoline keeps flowing along with the profits. Case in point: the previous owner Premcor had a huge release in September, 2004. After 2 1/2 years we still await news of the penalty! I shall try to meet with A.G. Biden to request action, such as \$1M fine perhaps."

3. Congratulations June Satterfield, for coordinating a wonderful Energy Film Festival

June Satterfield of Smyrna is the Delaware Sierra Club's Events Chair...

Sierra Club's selection of two dozen energy films is great, well worth viewing. Add multiple showings of An Inconvenient Truth into the mix, as we did on Friday and Saturday, April 20th and 21st at Delaware State University, and you get an awesome Energy Film Fest, The Hot Topic. Sierra members in Kent County partnered with local League of Women Voters and the Agricultural and Natural Resources Dept. of DSU to create this energy-focused film event to complement Earth Day activities in the area. Although we competed with the most beautiful spring weekend weather imaginable, we still managed to entice a few committed participants to become better informed and motivated to address our energy challenges in smarter ways. Bluewater Wind joined us with their coastal wind farm display and capable presenter, Nancy Carig, on Saturday and gave away Wind Power for Delaware DVDs. This is the first public event we've held in a long time, and we were successful in generating momentum and enthusiasm among our members, and involving other groups in the process, essential elements for further action, as well as presence to attract new membership. We are planning future events and are happy to share our film festival expertise ;-).

4. A Sustainable Energy Utility for Delaware?

An aggressive plan has been proposed to cut Delaware's energy use across all energy end-use sectors and all fuels while also promoting rapid development of customer-sited renewable energy. The Sustainable Energy Utility Task Force has proposed the creation of a nonprofit, the Sustainable Energy Utility or SEU, to administer energy efficiency, customer-sited renewable energy, affordable energy, green building, and clean transportation initiatives statewide. The SEU is a competitive and participatory model - if you want to invest in energy efficiency and customer-sited renewables you can participate in the SEU, which will cover the incremental capital cost between business-as-usual decisions, and high efficiency measures or renewable energy investments. University of Delaware's Center for Energy & Environmental Policy's research for the Task Force shows that Delaware has the potential to save over 400MW of peak energy demand through time-tested energy efficiency and conservation measures pioneered in other states over the last 20+ years. For more information, visit www.seu-de.org and read the News Journal article at

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070425/NEWS/704250385/1006/NEWS>