

## Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group Leaders

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[www.delaware.sierraclub.org](http://www.delaware.sierraclub.org)

## From the Editor

Marlene Rayner

If you are like me, you are now on total "overload" for the year. International (wars everywhere, serious issues with globalization), national (economy, energy crises, environment, politics, terrorism) and state (Motiva, power plant pollution, landfills, Delaware River deepening, traffic, sprawl) are just a few of the major issues facing us. How can we be informed about possible solutions and force our elected and appointed leaders to do the right things?

This issue of the Sierra News might be useful! We have an article on the Cherry Island Landfill, the repair and possible solutions for extending our landfill life -practical stuff -like mandated state-wide curbside recycling! A report follows on the NOW APPROVED (by the US Army core of engineers) Delaware River deepening project, the politics, and what we might be able to do about that fiasco. A Motiva update from Al Denio, Sierra representative, that suggests more of the same from them. Hasn't anyone figured out (that in our present corporate structure) environmental responsibility is an EXPENSE (just like employees) and thus, to be avoided at all cost. Think of the many \$\$\$\$ already spent delaying actions for years; I suppose legal services are an expense that is tax-deductible.

### **Mass Action by informed individuals might be the solution!**

Reading widely I have seen articles on MacDonald's environmental actions to thwart a growing bad name and on Walmart's public response to people saying they won't shop there for at least 10 good socially responsible and environmentally valid reasons. I also see politicians beginning to act responsibly (thwarting the FCC ownership ruling by legislation) **BUT ONLY IF WE, THE OWNERS OF THIS COUNTRY, STAND UP AND DEMAND REAL ACTION.**

## Letters to the Editor

Your article on growth and sprawl was provocative. The impact of this growth on the environment is profound. Citizens can put pressure on legislators to change land use policies but change will be very slow in coming.

There are a number of immediate ways each individual can have an impact and contribute to improving the environment. One is to make the decision to buy only older homes (a form of recycling) renovate, and make them more energy efficient. This alone will slow the sprawl process of using undeveloped land and resources for construction. A second way is to manage your property in an environmentally responsible way by decreasing lawn space, hardscapes, use of pesticides and herbicides; introducing native plants and avoiding invasive species. A third way is to participate in the National Wildlife Federation program of creating a wildlife habitat on one's property by agreeing to create an environment that provides food, water, cover and places for wildlife to raise their young, etc. This program is supported here in DE by the DE Nature Society and the DE Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.  
Regina von Schrlitz  
Wilmington, DE

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**We reserve the right to edit materials submitted for publication.** Send Materials and Letters to the Editor to: [marlenarayner@yahoo.com](mailto:marlenarayner@yahoo.com) or the Sierra Club Office.

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.

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## Speak to your Government!

**DNREC** Div. Air & Waste Management,  
Enforcement Section 24 Hours Toll Free 800-662-8802

**DE Governor's Office:** R M Minner 302 744-4101  
<[www.state.de.us/governor/comments.htm](http://www.state.de.us/governor/comments.htm)>

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