

## Meetings and workshops

All Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group members are invited to attend these Executive Committee meetings. The call for agenda goes out prior to each meeting to those who have indicated an interest in attending.

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

### Chapter Exec. Committee Meeting

September 11, at 7:00 p.m.

### Southern Delaware Group Exec. Committee

September 12th, Til Purnell's, 7:00 p.m. Contact Sallie Callanen (539-0635) for info. and Til (945-1317) for directions. New members are cordially invited.

### Sept. 20 - Sierra Club Day at Borders!

#### Chapter Conservation Meeting -

October 10, at 7:00 p.m. Agenda will focus on budget for next year and new campaign.

#### Chapter Executive Comm. Meeting

November 13, at 7:00 p.m.

### Wild Places, Cool Spaces November 16!

Southern Delaware Group, with a host of other groups, is planning a symposium on **Implementation of Solutions for Water Quality Issues** at the Uof D, College of Marine Studies for Oct. 24 - Nov. 14. Contact Sallie Callanen for more info.

#### Delaware Chapter Change of Address Form

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New Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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# Delaware Sierra News

A Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware \* September/October 2001

## Motiva Accident Tests State's Resolve

by Debbie Heaton

Work is finally beginning (at press time) on examining the scene of the July 17th accident at the Motiva Refinery in Delaware City that killed one man and sent seven others to the hospital. It will take many months for artifacts to be examined, records to be checked and compared, and personnel questioned.

What we do know is that the accident happened at 1:22 p.m. The Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control reports that they were on the scene within eight minutes. Air monitoring was set-up and results were coming in by 2:15 p.m. Wind moved the plume of "insulation and organic material" smoke over the Delaware River. Initial readings were coming in at 12ppm as they tested the mist for sulfuric acid. The initial "explosion" or catastrophic release, could not be contained by the dikes surrounding the tank farm, and the spent sulfuric acid was sent flowing from the tank, coating and dissolving what came into its path. A truck waiting nearby loaded with coke was said to have disappeared. The acid found a path along the railroad tracks and storm drainage system and flowed into the River. The exact amount of how much acid went exactly where is not known.

*Continued on page 4*



**Big Bill's Earth Day Clean-up in Trolley Square - volunteers sign-up and grab their tools to begin sprucing up the community. Kelly's Logan House and Sierra Club sponsored and staffed the event. See you there next year!**

## Assawoman Canal Work Stopped for Now

By Sallie Callanen

Thanks to the Freedom of Information Act, Debbie Heaton and Susan Mack were able to determine that the state's five year subaqueous lands permit for dredging the Assawoman Canal had expired in August 2000. On behalf of the Sierra Club, the Widener University Environmental and Natural Resources Law Clinic brought this matter to the attention of Nicholas A. DiPasquale, Secretary, DNREC. On 2 July Sec. DiPasquale sent a letter to James Stuhltrager of the Widener Law Clinic acknowledging that the permit had expired because no extension of time had been requested. On 12 July *The News Journal* reported that "his ruling could require a new permit application and public hearings if proponents want to move forward with the dredging," and that "DiPasquale has not yet decided how to respond to the permit lapse."

Proponent, state Sen. George H. Bunting Jr., D-Bethany Beach, said that the decision angered him and he predicted the state would seek a new permit. South Bethany Mayor Sal Aiello, a dredging proponent for many years, stated in the press that the mayors of Ocean View, Fenwick Island and Bethany Beach have joined him in support of the dredging, and that he and fellow mayors will soon meet with state officials to discuss ways to get the project back on track.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district office in Philadelphia,

*Continued on page 3*

### SAVE THE DATE!

Friday Evening, November 16, 2001  
*Wild Places, Cool Spaces*

At Del.Center for Contemporary Arts in Wilmington  
With Special Guest Jonathan Blair,  
*Contributing photographer for National Geographic*

An evening of music, photographs,  
hors d'oeuvres, & silent auction to benefit the  
Sierra Club's conservation activities in Delaware.

*Check your mailbox in October for more details.*

# The Summer of Our Discontent

By Jim Steffens,

Chapter Chair

The Delaware General Assembly has recessed until its special session on redistricting, having failed to pass even the mildest form of protection for the Inland Bays. The U.S. Congress has recessed, having passed a massive tax cut and the most misguided energy bill imaginable. A tank containing hundreds of thousands of gallons of sulfuric acid blew up at the Motiva refinery, causing probable loss of life, other workers to be injured and major land and water contamination. What else could go wrong?

This country desperately needs an energy policy. That offered by the president is a giveaway to the financial interests that helped elect him and nothing more. Gone are the days when to be a conservative meant to conserve resources for future generations. Fortunately Congressman Castle saw fit to vote for the amendment to prevent drilling in the ANWR (it failed) and against the final form of H.B. 4 because it allowed such drilling. We must now not only hope but work to see that the damage done in the House is repudiated in the Senate.

At last Delaware has a governor who takes the issue of land use seriously, and who is willing to make it the hallmark of her first term. I applaud Governor Minner's courage in tackling this difficult issue. There are many interests in the state who would like to see her fail: those developers who want to continue the old pattern of growth with few constraints; county interests who do not wish to be fettered by cooperation with the state; those who fail to see that the city of Wilmington has a major role to play in preventing sprawl.

One aspect of the governor's Livable Delaware initiative that died stillborn was Representative Price's bill to mandate environmental impact assessments of major developments around the Inland Bays. As a state we should all be working together to reverse the harm that is occurring to this natural resource, and to preserve the bays for future generations. We have yet to tackle substantive wetlands legislation that would protect these remaining sensitive areas. A lot more voices will have to be raised around the state to ensure that this legislation is passed. The Inland Bays are a state resource, not the domain of a few people who

want to make their money and run.

And then there is Motiva. When the refinery agreed with the EPA and with Delaware's Department of Natural Resources to install major new pollution control equipment, promising to end years of noxious air pollution, the plant management sent a letter to environmental groups in the state lauding this agreement as a sign of the refinery's interest in protecting the environment. The Delaware Sierra Club responded to that letter, saying that we would judge the performance of the refinery by results, not by promises.

Then came the explosion and fire. The present management may have the best of intentions in running a safe and non-polluting facility. But they inherit a culture that has over and over shown little regard for the environment, no program of plant maintenance that would prevent accidents from happening, and—based on the most recent episode—a policy toward worker safety and a lack of hazards review that defies common sense. The management of the Motiva refinery must demonstrate to the community that it can change this culture, that it can establish practices of plant and worker safety, that ensures the safety and health of the community, and that it can turn around a long history of contempt for Delaware's environment. Absent that change, the plant should be closed.

I would say that the summer has been enough of a burden. The long-range forecast, however, requires continued vigilance.

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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 **October 1, 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](mailto: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, Mike Casale and Chris Crotty.

Contributing writers: Jim Steffens and others as noted.

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continued on the next page

## 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	

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

reportedly, could suspend work on the federal permit pending state action or consider a conditional permit that would take effect only when the state wins its own permit.

On 16 July *The News Journal* printed an editorial expressing the papers support for dredging the Assawoman Canal. The editorial included the statement "We usually agree with the Sierra Club, but this time it is wrong."

*News Journal* columnist Al Mascitti astutely mentioned in his 24 July article that "Those pushing for the dredging are mainly boaters and those who make a living off them, backed by real-estate agents, builders and the rest of the pro-growth lobby."

The Southern Delaware Group responded to the *News Journal* article critical of the Club

Check out the full text of this response to the *News Journal* editorial on-line at [www.delaware.sierra-club.org](http://www.delaware.sierra-club.org)

with the 28 July Delaware Voice column entitled, "DNREC's master plan for Assawoman raises questions."

The lack of sound scientific information about the adverse impacts of dredging the

Assawoman Canal is disturbing. Even more upsetting are the unsubstantiated claims that dredging of the Canal will improve the environment. The mayor of South Bethany announced a plan in 1984 "to downplay the importance of recreational boating and focus on water quality."

This plan should be kept in mind.

Take action: Contact Nicholas A. DiPasquale (NDiPasquale@state.de.us) to oppose this dredging project. Notify Lawrence M. Slavitter of the Corps (Lawrence.M.Slavitter@nap02.usace.army.mil) of your opposition to this project and request that a conditional permit not be granted.

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## Arsenic Standards and Your Health

### Web resources

U.S Geological Survey at <http://www.usgs.gov>

Arsenic - The EQI Nat. Well Water Study - [www.main.nc.us/cleanwaterfundnc/cwlti.htm](http://www.main.nc.us/cleanwaterfundnc/cwlti.htm)

National Research Council's 1999 Report "Arsenic in Drinking Water" [www.nap.edu/catalog/6444.html](http://www.nap.edu/catalog/6444.html)

World Health Organization - [www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/Arsenic/arsenic.htm](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/Arsenic/arsenic.htm)

Natural Resources Defense Council's February 2000 Report Arsenic and Old Laws - [www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/arsenic/aolinx.asp](http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/arsenic/aolinx.asp)

NRC/NAS Report on Arsenic in Drinking Water - [books.nap.edu/books/0309063337/html/R1.html](http://books.nap.edu/books/0309063337/html/R1.html)

On March 20th, Environmental Protection Agency administrator Christine Whitman suspended the revised arsenic standard for drinking water issued by the outgoing Clinton administration. Since then, the Bush administration has announced it will re-open the issue to further research and review, in the meantime reverting back to the previous, outdated, unhealthy standard.

By delaying the implementation of a more protective arsenic standard, the Bush Administration is threatening the health of an estimated 12.7 million Americans who drink water that contains arsenic levels that are unsafe.

Arsenic is the 20th most abundant element naturally occurring in the earth's crust and the 12th most common element in the human body. While some foods such as fish contain arsenic compounds, those forms that are present in water are of most concern. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration estimates, on average, an adult ingests about .053 parts per billion (ppb) a day of organic arsenic from dietary sources, and the National Research Council estimates that arsenic intake from food is comparable to drinking water containing 5 ppb.

According to the National Academy of

Sciences, long-term exposure to low concentrations of arsenic in drinking water can lead to skin, bladder, lung, and prostate cancer. Non-cancer effects of ingesting arsenic at low levels include cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and anemia, as well as reproductive and developmental, immunological, and neurological effects.

The revised standard, which lowers the allowable level of arsenic in drinking water from 50 ppb to 10 ppb, was the result of more than a decade of scientific reviews, public hearings, and discussions with health experts and industry. In addition, the 10 ppb level is the international standard adopted several years ago by the World Health Organization and the European Union.

In the United States, with the Safe Drinking Water Act in place, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency considers the American tap water supply one of the safest in the world. Yet the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences estimates one out of 100 people ingesting water containing 50 ppb of arsenic will get cancer.

At Governor Minner's behest the 10ppm drinking water standard is being implemented in Delaware ahead of the EPA decision.

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## Motiva Accident, *Continued from page 1*

**If you have anything to report that would help the investigation or you know of anyone who might be using water pulled from a shallow well in the Delaware City area please call the joint command at 302-836-6646.**

We do know that a considerable amount found its way into the Delaware River where some 2,400 fish and 240 blue crabs were killed. Soda ash was added to the water to neutralize the acid. During the couple days following the accident the plant exceeded permit limitations for pH and several other parameters.

We now understand through comments to reporters and at public meetings, that safety and maintenance at the Motiva plant has been relegated to a minor role in the overall mode of operations. This is not a problem that has developed overnight. Workers indicate that maintenance budgets across the company have been reduced over the last eight to nine years. Motiva's record of chemical releases at the Coast Guard web site indicate that in the last 2.5 years (since the plant name was changed to Motiva) there have been about 74 chemical releases, both large and small. In July 2001 alone they had eight chemical releases (three to land, three to air and two to water).

### **So where does it stand?**

The various authorities are basically getting ready for a long and probably legally contentious project. A "Unified Command" has been formed at the site to investigate the accident. Members include Motiva, the Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, DNREC, State Fire Marshall's office and the Police. Approximately one million gallons of spent sulfuric acid and pure sulfuric acid are "unaccounted for".

On August 1st, EPA issued an order that regional administrator Donald S. Welsh said: "will ensure that an effective cleanup occurs with appropriate oversight by environmental agencies. This order creates a legally enforceable basis for the cleanup..." This order was issued under the Superfund statute, which authorizes EPA to respond to the release of hazardous substances. On August 9th Motiva submitted a plan to the EPA, but the plan itself has not been distributed publically.

Governor Minner has taken a stern stand demanding that certain actions be taken initially, including requesting a response letter indicating willingness to comply.

Sierra Club supports the demands made by Governor Minner for public oversight of



**The picture above is not one of the tanks damaged by the explosion. This one, visible from Route 9, collapsed in on itself when an emptying procedure went awry.**

inspection, maintenance and repair plans; firm deadlines and strict penalties for failure to complete the work on time; oversight by an outside expert paid for by Motiva; and weekly personal progress reports. The initial deadline was met by Motiva, but we will be waiting for this letter to be backed up by actions. Another concern is that the two-page letter did not specifically address how the ongoing operational/maintenance problems would be addressed.

The groundwater aquifers in the area are being extensively monitored but authorities say that so far this accident has not specifically damaged the aquifer. The Columbia formation is the aquifer closest to the surface, below the Delaware City industrial complex. It is described as "pretty contaminated" by John Talley of the Delaware Geologic Survey. However, it is not currently being used for drinking water supplies. The Potomac formation, 600 to 700 feet below the surface, protected by a thick layer of clay, is the source depended on for drinking water and 25 million gallons are being pumped daily.

### **Long Term**

Motiva produces approximately 140,000 barrels of oil a day, 365 days a year and apparently will continue to do so.

Motiva also has a long history of operating problems for which they have paid fines and supposedly remedied the situation. This recent accident illustrates that Motiva chooses quick

*Continued on bottom of next page*

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## Who Runs the Sierra Club Locally?

**Deadline for receipt of nominations is October 5, 2001**

Silly question? Not if you are on the Nominating Committee looking for candidates willing to serve on the ExComm! Five meetings a year and a few telephone calls and e-mail sessions. Is that too much to ask of anyone? We need more active people to help guide our volunteers that are on the firelines. Please take time to submit the name of someone you would like on the ExComm.

Jim Steffens, Cornelia Melvin, and Terri Tipping will complete their terms this December. Jim Steffens (302-239-9601), Ryan Walsh (302-734-4315) and Pete Okie

(302-856-2728) will be serving as the Nominating/ Election Committee for the Chapter. Please call in your nomination or send it to the Chapter Executive Committee c/o Jim at 402 Coldspring Run, Newark, DE 19711-2422.

In the Southern Delaware Group Pete Okie, Rich Anthony and Til Purnell will complete their terms of office. Group Nominating Committee members are Cornelia Melvin, Steve Callanen and Marion Forbes. Please send names to Cornelia at 24 Pack Lane, Lewes, DE 19958 or email her at [cornelia.melvin@dol.net](mailto:cornelia.melvin@dol.net)

Nominations must be made with the consent of the nominee.

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## Who You Gonna Call?

Are you troubled by a pesticide spray planned for your neighborhood? A suspicious smell from a chemical plant? A poorly designed development slated for a wetland? To get help, you can call "Environmental 911" at 415-977-5520, or e-mail [environmental911@sierraclub.org](mailto:environmental911@sierraclub.org). This new Sierra Club program offers activists help with research and resources to combat a problem close to home. Check it out at <http://www.sierraclub.org/environmental911/index.asp>

**Help!** Still seeking volunteers to help with chapter and group activities - check [www.delaware.sierraclub.org](http://www.delaware.sierraclub.org) for updates!

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## Put it to good use!

Want to use your tax refund to turn things around? You can make a tax-deductible donation directly to the Delaware Chapter by writing a check to Sierra Club Foundation and mailing it to our treasurer Terri Tipping at 3202 Champions Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808.

## Thanks to the office volunteers!

The chapter would like to acknowledge the efforts of Shanna McCann, Victoria Vandyzk, Lucy Salvatore, Ed Zahnow in helping out at the chapter office. Thanks also to newspaper clippers: Chris Crotty, Phil Troxler, Janet Friedberg, Eva Lydick and Catherine Adams.

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**Motiva**, from page 4

fixes and has been negligent in their maintenance practices.

These choices by Motiva show continued production is valued far more than safe operation and the maintenance standards practiced by other heavy industry in the state. They chose money and profit over the safety of their workers, neighbors, businesses and the coastal zone that surrounds them.

We feel that Motiva needs to undertake a full review of procedures plant-wide as well as to undergo a complete site inspection. The public needs to be assured that all proper maintenance has been undertaken and properly completed throughout the plant so that accidents like this don't happen again. If necessary the plant should be shut down to facilitate this review.

Company policies need to be updated and

appropriate budgets allocated for proper maintenance to become normal operating procedure. It is way beyond time for a change at Motiva.



## Preserve the Future

**N**ot 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](mailto:planned.giving@sierraclub.org)

## Outings for September/October 2001

### Logan House

#### Socials:

September 20 and October 18, 6-9 p.m., Kelly's Logan House, Trolley Square, Wilmington. Join the outings committee for drink and food specials, and meet new and old members and potential members. Contact Matt Urban for information (302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com)

### Cape May sojourn

Saturday, September 8, 2001, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Leader: Dan Soeder (302-284-2613, e-mail: Djsoder54@cs.com) Bring your bicycle and helmet down to the ferry dock in Lewes, DE. For \$7 we'll take a boat ride across the mouth of the Delaware Bay to the New Jersey shore and Cape May. We'll spend the day exploring this unique region on bikes, and return to Lewes by dark. Heavy or steady rain cancels.

### Renaissance Fair, PA.

Saturday, September 29, 2001  
Leader: Matt Urban (302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com)  
Take a trip back in time to the Middle Ages without leaving southeastern PA! Contact Shiray for details and to reserve a spot.

**Coast Day**, UD in Lewes - October 7 - Visit the Sierra Club booth as part of your visit to this day of marine activities. Chapter t-shirts and calendars will be for sale. To help out at the booth for an hour or two contact Al Denio 302-455-0389.

### Science vs. Politics: Sea Level Rise and Coastal Erosion Bus Tour

Sat., October 13. Professor John Craft, UD Geology Dept, Del.'s leading authority on the subject, after thirty years work, will lead the trip. Brown bag lunch and beverage. Bus will pick-up at 8 a.m. at DE Museum of Natural History in Wilm., in Middletown and Dover (TBD) and a 10 a.m. stop at Midway Shopping Center in Lewes. Jointly sponsored by the Sierra Club, the Society of Natural History of Delaware and the League of Women Voters of Sussex County. Call Debbie Heaton (302) 378-8501 by October 9th to reserve a spot on this free tour.

### Canoe camping in Delaware Water Gap

Saturday-Sunday, October 20-21, 2001  
Leader: Matt Urban (302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com)  
Spend 2 days on the Delaware River, paddling from Dingman's Ferry to Kittatinny Point in the Delaware Water Gap NRA. This is a relatively flat stretch of river and an easy paddle, with spectacular fall scenery and an overnight camping stop on the shore. Contact Matt for details.

## HEAR YE, HEAR YE: A FREE LUNCH!!

*(Well, almost...)*

**What:** Sierra Club Delaware Chapter and Southern DE Group Picnic  
**When:** Sunday, September 16, 10 a.m.-dusk  
**Where:** Killen's Pond State Park, Felton, DE, Pavilion #3  
**Cost:** Park entrance fee (\$2.50 for residents)  
**Contact:** Dan Soeder (302-284-2613, e-mail: Djsoder54@cs.com), Chapter Office (302-425-4911) or Sallie/Steve Callanen (302-539-0635) to RSVP. Please respond by Sept. 14 if you plan to attend (we want to have enough food!)

**Schedule of events:** (come for what you like, or come for the whole day!)

10:00 a.m.: Set-up  
10:30 a.m.: Disk golf with Matt Urban  
12:00 Noon: Luncheon is served!!  
1:00 p.m.: Nature hike around Killen's Pond trail with Dan  
3:00 p.m.: Paddle Killen's Pond: dam to the footbridge (canoe rentals are available)  
5:00 p.m.: Fire the grill back up and cook leftovers for dinner  
6:30 p.m.: Start clean up  
7:00 p.m.: Dusk, leave the park

Menu will include burgers, hot dogs, bratwurst and veggie burgers cooked over charcoal by Dan (*who used to live out west and absolutely knows how to barbecue*). The club will supply the entrées, condiments, chips and sodas. Members are asked to bring a covered dish for 8 to share, although this is not required. Salads, fruit salads, casseroles, accompaniments, appetizers and desserts are all welcome. Please check with Dan so we can plan a balanced menu. Alcoholic beverages are permitted in the park, but no kegs are allowed. (B.Y.O.B.)  
*Event will happen rain or shine; we'll be in the pavilion if it rains. Heavy weather (i.e. a hurricane) will cancel; check with Dan if in doubt.*

**Directions:** Killen's Pond State Park is in the center of Delaware, off Route 13, about 10 miles south of Dover, and 5 miles north of Harrington. **From the north**, take Route 13 south of Dover about 8 miles to Felton. About 1 mile south of the Rt. 12 traffic light in Felton, turn left onto Killen's Pond Road. The park entrance is down past Lake Forest High School. Take the park entrance road straight in all the way to the big parking lot at the end; Pavilion 3 is on the right. **From Seaford - Laurel**, take Rt. 13 north past Harrington, and turn right on Killens Pond Road. **From the beach**, take Route 1 - Route 113 north past Milford, and turn left at the Frederica turnoff to Rt. 12. Take Route 12 west about 5 miles, then turn left (south) onto Chimney Hill Road. Chimney Hill ends at Killens Pond Road, turn right and the park entrance is immediately on the left.

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# Americans Say Helping Environment Creates New Jobs

**As House  
Debates Gas  
Mileage,  
New Poll Shows  
Harmony Between  
Environment,  
Economy**

Americans believe stronger environmental protections lead to economic growth and new jobs, according to a new poll conducted by Lake, Snell, Perry and Associates, Inc. The Sierra Club released the research in mid-July as a Congressional committee considers curbing global warming and saving energy by raising gas mileage standards for cars, SUVs and other light trucks to 40 miles per gallon. Although the auto industry claims higher gas mileage standards would hurt the U.S. economy, most voters surveyed believe stronger environmental policies help the economy.

"Americans see environmental protection and economic growth as two sides of the same coin," said Debbie Sease, the Sierra Club's legislative director. "When we improve fuel economy standards, we'll create high-tech and manufacturing jobs building cars and SUVs that don't guzzle gas. Making our cars and light trucks go farther on a gallon of gas is the single biggest step we can take to curb global warming, save consumers money at the gas pump and cut our dependence on foreign oil. Better gas mileage is a win-win for our environment and for our economy. Automakers may claim gas mileage hurts our economy, but Americans know better — when we guzzle gas, we only help OPEC economies."

"Despite the assertions of the Bush

Administration, the public believes a strong economy and a healthy environment go hand-in-hand — even though they have increasing concerns about the stability of the economy," said Celinda Lake, President of Lake, Snell, Perry and Associates, Inc. "Voters not only reject the notion that our nation must choose between a strong economy and a healthy environment, but they believe improving the environment can actually create jobs and strengthen the economy. By a margin of more than three-to-one, people thought improving the environment creates jobs and strengthens the economy."

When asked about the relationship between the economy and the environment, a strong majority of voters believe improving the environment can create jobs and help the national economy. Fifty-six percent of voters say improving the environment creates more jobs and helps the economy, compared to only 17 percent who say improving the quality of the environment slows down economic growth and job creation. Moreover, across the board, Republicans, Independents and Democrats all say improving the environment creates more jobs and helps the economy, over statements that environmental protections have no effect or a negative effect on the economy. Union members are even more likely than voters overall to believe that improving the environment helps the economy; 64 percent of union members agree with that statement, compared to 17 percent who say improving the environment hurts the economy.

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It has been brought to our attention that the article about Senator Carper supporting efforts to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in the last issue of the *Delaware Sierra News* did not mention or salute the long-term efforts of Sen. Biden on behalf of the Arctic. A member of his staff made clear that the Senator has worked hard in his efforts to protect these sensitive lands from oil drilling as well as co-sponsoring the Wilderness Bill.

We did not intend to belittle Senator Biden's efforts while trying to support Senator Carper on his first steps to protect the environment in his new job. We realize the careful balance that will be needed as we report on Senatorial actions in the future. We hope that the staff of both senators will share their news with the editorial board for our edi-

## A Note and a Federal Update

fication in the future. Below are a few clips we have received.

**June 22, 2001** - The House approved the Rahall amendment to the Interior Appropriations bill by a decisive vote of 242-173, including 47 pro-Monument Republicans voting YES. The Rahall amendment will prevent the Interior Department from undertaking any new leasing or pre-leasing activity in National Monuments in the coming year. Rep. Castle placed a pro-monument vote. Tell him thanks when you see him!

**July 24, 2001** - In a bipartisan effort to conserve the world's natural resources, Sens. Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-Del.) and Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) were joined by Senate colleagues in unanimously passing the Tropical Forest Conservation Act

of 2001. The bill would extend the program through FY 2004.

**August 1, 2001** - Senator Biden co-sponsored an amendment with Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) at today's Foreign Relations Committee meeting, calling on the Administration to bring a proposal for the United States' participation in a binding climate change agreement to the international climate change talks this fall.

**August 14, 2001** - According to a note from Congressman Castle, he voted for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge amendment, which lost. Then he said, "When this amendment failed, I voted against the entire energy bill." About his votes on CAFE standards. He wants to be sure that increases in fuel efficiency standards to do not compromise automobile safety.