
Delaware Sierra News

A Sierra Club Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware Spring/Early Summer 2009

Letter from the Delaware Chapter Chair

by Matt Urban

This year brings some significant change to our chapter, most notably in the form of many new faces amongst us. In our recent Chapter election we had two new members elected to the Executive Committee – June Satterfield and Nancy Carig. Both are highly skilled leaders who have already brought a new fresh energy to our meetings and both have great ideas for how to strengthen the chapter in the coming year. In addition to June and Nancy, this election also saw the return of Debbie Heaton to Excom. As many of you know Debbie has served in many positions in the chapter throughout the years, including Conservation Chair, Chapter Chair, as chapter staff, and much more.

These changes, as well as the significant changes in Washington and our own State leadership set the stage for a very productive and fruitful 2009 and beyond.

This year, my personal goals as Chapter Chair focus squarely on building our chapter's leadership and outreach capacity. We simply cannot reach our goals without having enough trained and capable leaders within the chapter, so my intention this year is to keep that focus in all of our meetings and activities, and work towards building a culture of leadership development within our chapter. In addition,

I and others are working very hard to enhance our ability to quickly communicate with our members and the public. We also face some very significant funding challenges, so I will be working very closely with the chapter Executive Committee to ensure that our chapter operations are maintained and that we maximize our ability to raise funds to support our mission.

This chapter continues only because of the dedication and hard work by those that choose to be a part of making a difference in the environment of our State. Being a part of the Sierra Club organization is a challenging, but also incredibly rewarding experience. I'm continually inspired by the commitment, resourcefulness, and tenacious spirit of our chapter leaders. That's why I'm involved, and to a large degree why I'm here it simply to support what they're working on. But as a small group of people we have many activities we can't take on and challenges that we can't face without more who share our commitment. That's why I encourage each of you reading this to consider becoming more involved. Check the chapter web site, newsletter, and email communications regularly to see when events and outings are planned or assistance needed - and please come out to share with us the rewards that come

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“Coal Ash In Your Backyard” Forum

Sierra Club recently sponsored “Coal Ash in Your Backyard,” a forum in Georgetown, DE, addressing the dangers of improperly storing fly ash and coal ash, the solid waste from coal burning, at the Indian River Power Plant in Millsboro. Seventy-five citizens attended to learn more about this hot button environmental issue in Sussex County, which has been a major concern of the Citizens for Clean Power or CCP organization, and has been kept before the public through the strong advocacy work of their cofounder and Sierra Club member, Bill Zak. Bill had appealed a decision made by former DNREC Secretary Hughes to allow the permitting of a third coal ash pile while ignoring the fact that the two existing piles have been contaminating the air and water in the Delaware Inland Bay area for years. CCP was advocating for the remediation of the existing piles before allowing the construction of an additional one. Bill Zak’s hearing before the Environmental Appeals Board was to take place in just two weeks time.

This forum, one of a series of Sierra Club meetings on timely topics being held throughout the state, was designed to provide our membership and the community a better understanding of the environmental hazards of improper coal ash storage and

alert them to the appeals process underway.

Three excellent speakers, all Sierra Club members, provided the program. Chad Tolman, Sierra club’s Energy Committee Chair gave an overview of the coal to energy process, energy challenges in Delaware and the threat of global warming. John



Austin, formerly a specialist in hazardous materials with EPA, spoke in detail about the composition of fly ash and the dangers of stockpiling it. Bill Zak spoke about the health and welfare impacts of the problem on the community.

Other Sierra Connections this past year have dealt with Mountain Top Removal and wilderness preservation in Utah’s Redrock Canyonlands. Our next Sierra Connection program will be “Chill the Drills: Oil development and Climate Change in America’s Arctic.” Watch for details in our chapter emails and postcards.

2009 Delaware Chapter Sierra Club Election Results

Delaware Chapter:

Debbie Heaton – 88 votes (elected)
June Satterfield – 88 votes (elected)
Nancy Carig – 65 votes (elected)
Jay Cooperson – 57 votes (elected)
Michael Smith – 52 votes
Dick Bewick – 47 votes
Dave Keifer – 38 votes

Southern Delaware Group:

Harry Haon – 29 votes (elected)
Phil Shuman – 27 votes (elected)

Delaware Chapter Executive Committee

Officers:

Matt Urban – Chair
Nancy Carig – Vice Chair
Rich Anthony Steve Callanen
Jay Cooperson – Land Use
Debbie Heaton – Conservation Committee chair
June Satterfield – Membership and Events
Chad Tolman – Energy
Ron Zink – Cool Cities Initiative

Appointed positions:

Lorri Fencer – Treasurer
Energy – Chad Tolman
Political Committee – Debbie Heaton
Pollution – Al Denio
Outings – Jenny Egan
Cool Cities – Ron Zink
Newsletter Editor – Jay LaCorte
Web – Mike Casale

Southern Delaware Group Election Results

Harry Haon Phil Shuman
Steve Callanen Terri Usuki
Barbara Murray

Southern Delaware Group Executive Committee

Steve Callanen – Chair
Harry Haon – Vice Chair
Carrie Bennett – Secretary

Phil Shuman Terri Usuki

Southern Delaware Group Officers

Barbara Murray – Conservation Chair
Carrie Bennett – Membership Chair

David R. Keifer – May 12, 1937- January 23, 2009

“an ardent conservationist”

The obituary read, “Mr. Keifer was born May 12, 1937 in Reading, Pennsylvania,” presented a detailed employment history listing numerous municipal, state and federal agencies, and told us that he was “an ardent conservationist.”

Attempting to recount the essence of a person is challenging. Words fail to express the void that has been created or how greatly Dave’s presence will be missed. Words also fail to adequately convey how bright, funny (oft times at his own expense), generous, pragmatic, and kind a person Dave was. And, mere words cannot evoke the inflection in his voice when, in salutation, he would say, “and, a good day to you my friend.” This addresses but one piece of a complex mosaic which comprised Dave Keifer’s life, his Sierra Club endeavors.

Following his retirement as the Director of the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Dave became active in the Sierra Club’s Delaware Chapter. In addition to serving as Chairman of the Delaware Chapter in 2006, Dave’s tenure has included serving as Conservation Committee Chairman with both the Delaware Chapter (2005-2006) and the Southern Delaware Group (2008-2009), Chairman of Delaware Chapter Conservation Subcommittees on Legal (2008-2009) and Land Use (2008-2009) issues, and Chairman of the Southern Delaware Group’s Kent Co Land Use (2007-2009) and Marine (2006-2009) Subcommittees. Dave was also a member of Sierra Club’s National Marine Committee (2007-2008).

Most recently Dave has been involved in the cre-

ation of testimony addressing the reauthorization of the Magnusson-Stevens Act, monitoring activity regarding the National Offshore Aquaculture Act of 2007, serving as the Chapter’s representative on the Delaware Deepening Alliance (a multi organizational coalition opposing the Delaware River’s Main Channel Dredge), monitoring Delaware Coastal Zone permit applications, and compiling a white paper identifying disconnects and inconsistencies in Delaware’s land use law.

During Club business and social gatherings it was not uncommon to hear Dave, always a willing mentor, astutely discuss such varied topics as air and water quality, brownfields redevelopment, dredging, essential habitat, fisheries management policies, threatened and endangered species, zero waste management and recycling programs, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Magnusson-Stevens Act, Delaware’s Coastal Zone Act, and/or Delaware’s Land Use Planning and Land Use Law, as well as various Federal and State permitting processes with equal ease.

Some of his peers have commented that Dave’s loss to the environmental community is significant, that he left big shoes to fill with respect to preserving and protecting the environment in Delaware and beyond. Those of us who had the good fortune to know and work with this “ardent conservationist” are richer for the experience. And, both the environment and his fellow conservationists are poorer for the loss. For numerous reasons, Dave’s presence will be missed.

Delaware Sierrans Adopt A Highway!

On Saturday, October 4, an intrepid team of 10 Sierrans with reflective vests, gloves, and a generous supply of trash bags officially adopted a highway... Hazletville Road, from Artis Drive to Nault Road, just west of Dover. Mary and Dan Snyder organized the effort and started us off with a huge and delicious breakfast at their home. We worked for a couple of hours and filled 18 bags.

Now motorists will be seeing a road sign which will credit the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club with keeping over 2 miles of Kent County green and clean. Adopting a highway was a mix of good company, good food, good exercise, good PR for the Sierra Club, and a good deed done. Our agreement

with DelDOT requires a clean-up at least three times a year. If you would like to be included next time, call the Snyders at 302-674-4040.

The Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club publishes the *Delaware Sierra News* quarterly. This publication is written and produced entirely by volunteers. Ideas expressed in the *Delaware Sierra News* are those of the columnists and may not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. Limited time constraints of an all-volunteer staff do not always allow for full data corroboration. Send materials for submission to the Sierra Club, 100 W 10th St, Ste. 106, Wilmington, DE 19801 or by e-mail to our editor. **Late Summer Issue Deadline: July 30**

Editor: Jay LaCorte – jay.lacorte@yahoo.com
Production: Susan Oldenburg – VideoSue@aol.com

News from the Delaware Chapter Political Committee

Chapter Sponsors Environmental Summit

The Delaware Chapter Political Committee got the year off to a good start with the convening of the Environmental Summit at Wilmington University in Dover on January 19, 2009. About 80+ environmental group representatives from across the state attended and enjoyed a morning of networking and several break out sessions focused on issues that will be challenging the environmental community over the next one to two years. Energy, water, waste and recycling, air pollution, land use and sprawl, climate change, health and the environment, nature and wildlife protection, and water quality were topic areas discussed and issues and outcomes listed.

A report from the Summit was sent to all participants in late February with the hopes that the participants will maintain the connections they made and begin to communicate and work together in the future. Several of the participants will be working on a web-based tool to help the different groups share information and facilitate communication.

Thanks go to Tom Noyes and June Satterfield for planning the event and pulling together the facilitators and volunteers who helped make the program run smoothly.

In-District Meetings

Sierra Club member John Irwin, a resident of the 7th House district, hosted the first of many In-District Meetings the Political Committee is planning to hold around the state. In an effort to follow-up on our election year work the chapter will be bringing Sierra Club members together with their elected officials from the General Assembly to talk about

pending environmental legislation, concerns and to get to know their elected officials better.

If you would like to host a meeting at your home, please contact Debbie Heaton at Politics@Delaware.sierraclub.org. We will be notifying our members about upcoming meetings in their neighborhoods, as they are scheduled, by postcard, email and by a follow-up phone call – so don't be surprised when your phone rings! We hope you will join us and bring a friend!

Upcoming Political Committee Meetings

Do you have some ideas about activities the committee should undertake and would you like to help them happen? If so, please join us at our next meeting.

All meetings will be held 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Next meeting: June 17 (location TBD)

Letter from the Chair

Continued from page 1

from giving time to such a worthy pursuit. It really is quite fun!

To close on a more somber note - as you'll read elsewhere in this issue, this year also saw the unfortunate and untimely passing of one of our most skilled leaders Dave Keifer. I had the pleasure of working very closely with Dave when he was transitioning into the Chapter Chair position a few years ago as well as for the many years we served together on the Chapter Excom. I learned quite a lot from Dave and always appreciated his spirit, dedication, and sense of humor. He will be missed.

Sierra Club Membership Application Coupon

New Member Name(s) _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Membership Categories (circle one)

| | INDIVIDUAL | JOINT |
|--------------|------------|--------|
| Introductory | \$25 | NA |
| Regular | \$35 | \$43 |
| Supporting | \$50 | \$58 |
| Contributing | \$100 | \$108 |
| Life | \$1000 | \$1250 |
| Senior | \$15 | \$23 |
| Student | \$15 | \$23 |

All dues include subscription to *Sierra* (\$7.50) and chapter publications (\$1). Dues are not tax deductible.

Mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968,
Boulder, CO 80321-2968

FrepNo: F94QW58001

Find Your Place in the Delaware Chapter!

Hello, fellow Sierrans! I hope you are having a wonderful Spring. There are a number of opportunities to get involved in our chapter. Just fill out our Volunteer Interest Sign-up form at <http://delaware.sierraclub.org/engage> or contact me, your Member & Community Engagement Coordinator, 302-981-3007, ezra.temko@sierraclub.org, or June Satterfield, our Membership Chair, junesatterfield@verizon.net.

There are several particular needs we have right now. Please continue reading and I hope to hear



Tabling

We table at many events all over the state! You will not be tabling by yourself, so do not worry about being alone. If you are interested

in helping out by tabling at an event to promote the environment, please contact June Satterfield at junesatterfield@verizon.net or 302-653-6596.

Event Planning

The Sierra Club of Delaware has been hosting "Sierra Connections" with speakers and a social element. We also have had film showings and other socials and educational and action-oriented events. Will you help us to plan an event? If you are interested, please contact Ezra Temko at ezra.temko@sierraclub.org or 302-981-3007.



back from our new members and our veteran members who are looking to get more involved!

Thanks, Ezra Temko



Recycling

Our Recycling Committee is off to a great start! A special accolade goes to our outgoing chair Carolyn Doerr, who helped get this committee off the ground and worked with the Newark Senior Center to help them overcome barriers to recycling. The Newark Senior Center is now recycling their aluminum, plastics, cardboard, and other recyclables.

The Recycling Committee is looking for volunteers and leaders. If you are interested, please contact Ezra Temko at ezra.temko@sierraclub.org or 302-981-3007. The chair position is currently open and we also have two great upcoming volunteer opportunities!

Tabling at Newark Nite – Newark Nite is on June 6 from 5:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Can you help us table?

Planning a Recycling Award – The Recycling Committee is interested in offering an annual Green Recycling Award through the Sierra Club of Delaware to an organization or company doing a particularly great job in this area. Come to our next meeting to help brainstorm about this award. June 16, 7:00 p.m., Newark Senior Center Conference Room.

Upcoming Sierra Club Delaware Chapter Events

Dover Social – Thursday, June 4, 6:00 p.m., TGIF at Route 13 at Lockerman Street. For more information, contact Ron Zink at 302-735-8896 or ron_z_19904@yahoo.com

Newark Nite Tabling – Saturday, June 6, 5:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Help our chapter table for this event. For more information contact June Satterfield

Recycling Committee Meeting – Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 p.m., Conference Room, Newark Senior Center. We will work on developing a Recycling Green Award program to be given annually to organizations, individuals, houses of worship, or businesses that are deserving. For more information contact

Ezra Temko at Ezra.Temko@SierraClub.org or 302-981-3007.

Political Committee meeting – Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Location TBD. Visit www.VoteForTheEarth.or. For more information e-mail politics@delaware.sierraclub.org

Quarterly Chapter Planning and Executive Committee meeting – Saturday, June 27, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Location TBD / likely Sussex County. Special four-hour quarterly chapter planning meeting, including formal Executive Committee meeting as part (1-2 hours' worth). Topic: Leadership and Volunteer Engagement / Building for the Future.

Sierra Club Green Home: It Begins Where You Live

Thinking about installing a solar electric system for your home? Want to know how to keep your lawn healthy without all of the chemicals? Are you curious about how to reduce your home's carbon footprint? For most people, the journey towards a more sustainable lifestyle begins at home.

That's why, as part of our mission to help people explore, enjoy, and protect the planet, we're pleased to announce the launch of a partner website, Sierra Club Green Home (SCGH), which was created to help individuals, like you, take simple steps to green their homes. By helping people make their homes more energy-efficient, ecologically sustainably, and healthy, Sierra Club Green Home advances our efforts to better the environment.



For the past year, Sierra Club has worked closely with the SCGH team to create a website that makes green living more practical for ordinary consumers. The website provides a wealth of information regarding environmentally friendly products and practices relating to every aspect of home life.

When you visit Sierra Club Green Home, at <http://www.sierraclubgreenhome.com/contact-sierra-club-green-home/>, you will find educationally rich, quality content on more than 100 subjects related to sustainability for the home. Additionally, you'll have access to exclusive articles from prominent green journalists, including Joan Hamilton, Jennifer Roberts, and the Club's own "Mr. Green," Bob Schildgen.

Sierra Club Green Home also offers consumers access to thousands of providers of green products and services vetted for authenticity through the SCGH GreenCheck process—a set of carefully designed criteria whereby each applicant is evaluated. Visitors can scan the database of SCGH GreenCheck-authorized providers by region, enabling them to quickly and easily get started on greening their homes on any budget.

Lastly, Sierra Club Green Home features the following exclusive features that provide insight into incorporating green practices into daily life:

- SCGH Home Carbon Calculator to help determine a home's carbon footprints and suggest ways to lower it.
- SCGH Home Health Quiz to help people evaluate the healthiness of their homes and to tap into educational facts on bettering indoor air quality
- SCGH Net Solar Costs Calculator to determine the exact costs and benefits of adding solar technology to a home.

Visit Sierra Club Green Home's website soon for terrific ideas, tips and information dedicated to helping you create a more sustainable home environment. Visit <http://www.sierraclubgreenhome.com/contact-sierra-club-green-home/> to learn more about all the things you can do in your home and garden to "go green." Your health, your wallet and the earth will thank you.

Chapter Outings Calendar

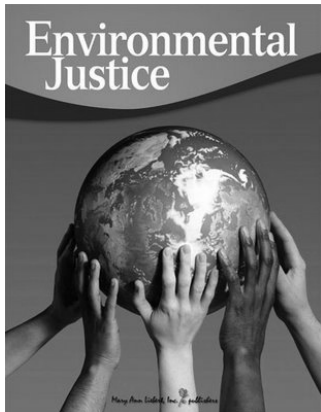
Saturday June 6: *Trails Day* – Friends of White Clay Trail Work – 9:00 am to noon. Leader: Jenny Egan, jennifermegan28@msn.com, 302-540-4546

Sunday, June 7: *Paddle the Little Blackwater River* (rated moderate) – Conservation outing. Paddle the largest tributary to the Blackwater River in Dorchester County on the Eastern Shore. This watershed and the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge downstream were threatened by a mega-development south of Cambridge a few years ago, which was stopped by environmental activists, including Sierra Club. We will put-in at the refuge about 11:00 a.m., paddle upstream to a USGS streamgage location, and return for a round trip of about 10 miles. The stream is tidal flatwater, although it is fairly wide in places and might have a moderate chop. Participants must supply their own watercraft and wear a PFD on the water. Thunderstorms or high winds cancel. Leader: Dan Soeder, Dan.Soeder@sierraclub.org, 410-969-9465

Check out the website often, more trips to be posted: <http://delaware.sierraclub.org/outings.htm>

Volunteers Sought for New Environmental Justice Committee in Delaware

There is interest in starting an Environmental Justice Committee in Delaware. If you are interested in helping start this committee, please contact Ezra Temko at 302-981-3007 or ezra.temko@sierraclub.org.



The Sierra Club supports the right to a clean and healthful environment for all people. Yet, when it comes to many environmental issues, from climate change to pollution to cancer, many communities bear disproportionate risks of harm because of their demographic characteristics or

economic conditions. Help to change that in Delaware!

If you are interested in being part of this movement, contact Ezra Temko and let him know of your interest.

Sierra Club Conservation Policies on Environmental Justice

Visit <http://www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/justice.aspx> for the principles in full.

Environmental Justice Principles

Sierra Club's founder, John Muir, said, "Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike."

The Sierra Club's purpose is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environment; and to use all lawful means to carry out these objectives.

1. We support the right to a clean and healthful environment for all people

- A. The Right to Democracy
- B. The Right to Participate
- C. The Right to Equal Protection
- D. The Right to Know
- E. The Right to Sustainable Environmental Benefits

- F. The Right to Equity
- G. The Right to Generational Equity
- H. The Rights of Native People

2. We support an end to pollution

3. We support the precautionary principle

A vertical banner for the Sierra Club. At the top is the Sierra Club logo with the text "SIERRA CLUB" and "ESTABLISHED 1892". Below the logo is a black bar with the text "Explore, enjoy and protect the planet" in white. The main text reads "Create an Environmental Legacy." in a large, serif font. Below this, there are two paragraphs of text. The first paragraph says: "Requests have played a key role in Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years." The second paragraph says: "Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter." At the bottom, there is contact information: "For more info and confidential assistance, contact Gift Planning Program, 87 Scandal St, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105, (800) 952-1270, planned.giving@sierraclub.org". The background of the banner is a grayscale image of a forest with tall trees.

Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group Leaders



All phone numbers are Area Code **302**

Chapter Office

Phone: 351-2776

Chapter Staff

Member & Community Engagement Coordinator:

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ezra.temko@sierraclub.org

Chapter Appointed Officers

Chair: Matt Urban 521-4495

murban@mobiustnm.com

Vice Chair: Nancy Carig

nancy@bluewaterwind.com

Secretary: Matt Urban 521-4495

murban@mobiustnm.com

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Conservation: Debbie Heaton

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Steve Callanen 539-0635

prnmed@mchsi.com

Southern Delaware Group (SDG)

Appointed Officers

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prnmed@mchsi.com

Vice Chair: Harry Haon 656-4582

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bemursaga@hotmail.com

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Secretary & Membership Chair:

Carrie Bennett 732-3358

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Visit us on the Web!

www.delaware.sierraclub.org



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Sierra Club Delaware Chapter Change Of Address Form

Attach old address mailing label:



New Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail to: Sierra Club, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80321-2968