

Delaware Sierra News

A Sierra Club Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware

June/July/August 2003

The ISSUES of GROWTH and SPRAWL

This article on land use, examines the rapid sprawling growth that has gripped our nation (with examples from Delaware): how we got here; who benefits; who pays; some very interesting facts, and how to take back control.

"In the US we have lost 95% of our old-growth forests, 55% of our wetlands, and 99% of our native prairies. During our short lives, most of us have witnessed an unprecedented transformation of the landscape. Urban development in North America has covered more land in the past 50 years than in all previous history....Urban sprawl in the US is consuming 160 acres of land every hour." (p.19, BETTER NOT BIGGER)

In Delaware that means we have lost 6700 farms (from 9300 in 1945 to 2600 in 2000). Although crop production has remained the same even, due to increased efficiency and petroleum use. Nearly 10% of the 1.3 million total acres in Delaware (135,000 acres) were lost from 1970 - 2000. Since 1990 growth below the C&D Canal in New Castle County is a phenomenal 198% (17% over all), 14% in Kent County, and 38% in Sussex County. Much of the growth and lost farms resulted in sprawl housing.

by Marlene Rayner

Sprawl can be defined as enlarging the boundaries of more heavily populated centers of homes and work-places to homes in more thinly developed areas (suburbs). This spreading growth generally means **automobile-dependent development and usually initially public sewer and water independ-**

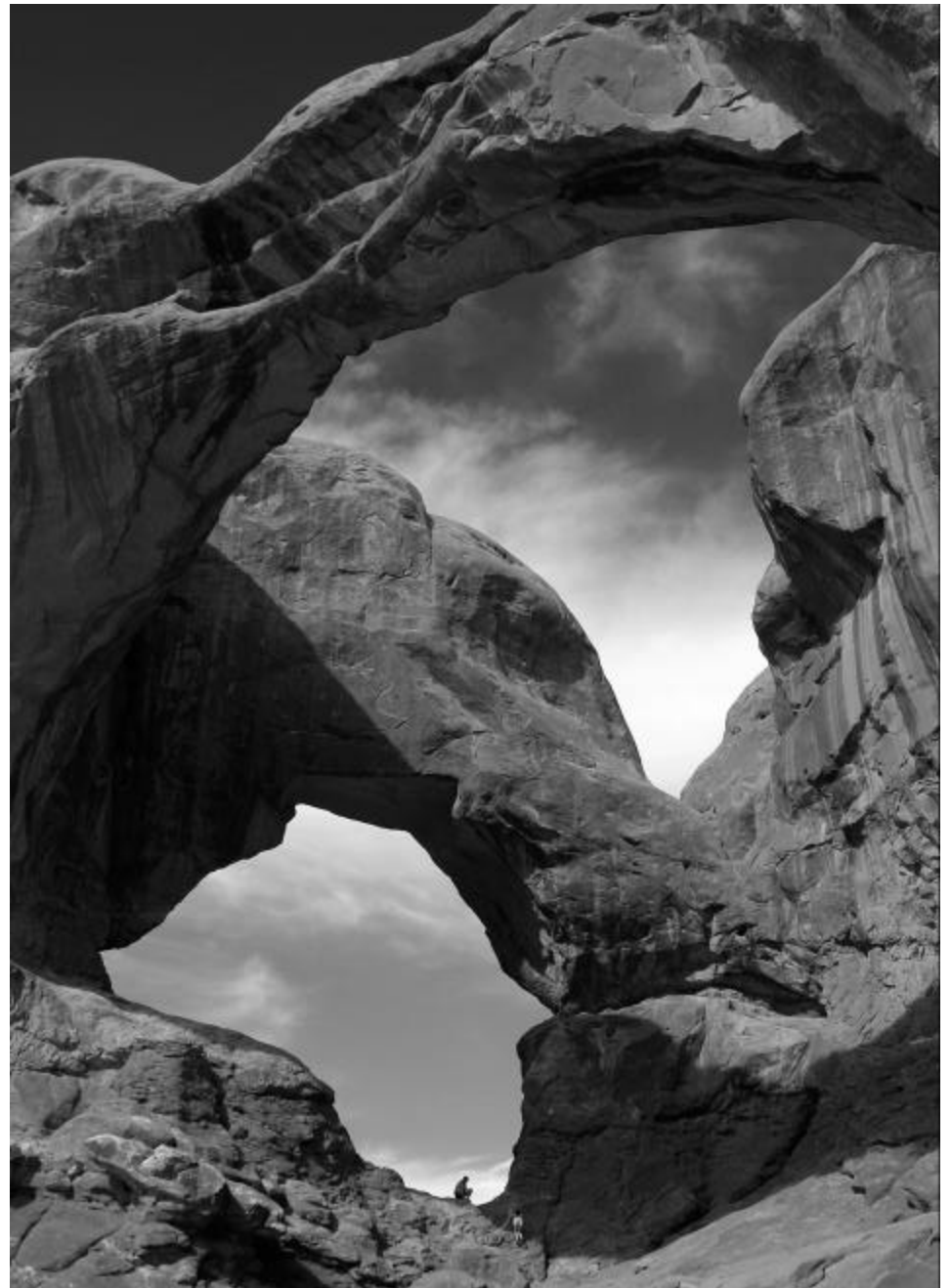
ent (wells and septic systems). As area residents have become more and more affected by the personal and environmental costs of sprawl, much local resistance has developed to this type of growth.

EARLY FACTORS RESPONSIBLE

Rampant sprawling growth in the US can be traced from our earliest times to our bonus of unlimited space and a serious lack of thoughtful planning for growth. Also assisting in the process were monied interests (who benefit most) and government policies. As early as the 1930s government subsidies for housing, transportation, and education favored suburban over urban growth. Early systematic bias of housing loans to suburban over urban environments in the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) bribed the middle classes to move out of cities, where efficient public transportation systems existed. Sealing the fate of those left behind (those who couldn't scrape together the minimum FHA loan down payments) were the discriminatory and restrictive suburban zoning practices, federal public housing policies, and lack of the personal transportation (cars!).

Although many of the loan policies have changed, the social pattern was set everywhere. Urban policies to raise the tax base (wage taxes) have chased workplaces to outside edges of cities, forcing even longer automobile commutes from even further out suburban housing (e.g. Delaware today: DuPont Co. office sites such as Barley Mill, Chestnut Run, Glasgow, Stine).

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2nd Annual Photo Contest winners celebrated

Even though parts of the state received several inches of rain, 50 people turned out May 16 for the photo show and program in Newark. Matt Urban took top prize with a photo of the Double Arches (above). Philip Concors won second prize. Category winners include: Leah Burcat, Danielle Quigley, Jason Prior and Billy Johnson. Special thanks to the many local businesses that sponsored the awards: Cameras Etc., Newark Camera, Donahue Printing, Aztec Copies, Dearworth Frames, the Frame Shoppe and Abigail Adams Bed & Breakfast.

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From the Editor

Marlene Rayner

With this issue of the Delaware Sierra Newsletter, we are introducing a new format. By switching to recycled newsprint, we are making the newsletter more environmentally sound. Meanwhile, we are reducing the amount of handling required prior to mailing by eliminating the need to fold and staple each copy. The printing costs are also reduced, but mailing is slightly more expensive - making savings small. Although we Sierra Club members are a hardy lot, I cannot fathom how Debbie Heaton did all this work with a small irregular volunteer group for 13 years. She deserves much credit for holding us together in Delaware. As the new editor I will look to her remarkable accomplishment for inspiration.

This issue of the newsletter has an article on one of the Sierra national issues: sprawl and its consequences (with Delaware examples). This month we also feature a report on *The Party's Over*, an excellent new book about the impending global oil crisis. And don't miss the story about the ongoing action against a coastal pipeline. Both stories relate to our fossil fuel dependence and the lengths to which the United States will go to get this resource after years of failing to plan prudently for the future. I hope to continue this theme of examining Sierra national goals with each issue by adding a Delaware perspective and examining the inter-relationships with many of these issues. I am grateful that the Sierra Club and other environmental groups are organizing opposition to the government's present reactionary policies.

Poll after poll of Americans suggest overwhelming support for environmental issues confronting us and the world. The challenge is getting educational information out to the public so that informed discussion and "consensus building for the common good" can occur. Unfortunately, we live in a time when the government encourages citizens to look suspiciously at anyone who questions business-as-usual. Meanwhile, the conglomerated ownership of newspapers, radio and TV stations does not support dissemination of real information for the common good. We, the owner-citizens of this country, must not allow a McCarthy-like secrecy and conformity to be imposed upon us for the monetary gain of a few. Democracy depends on freedom of information and thought; we all have responsibility to participate.

I invite letters and criticism and articles! Thoughtful and open discussion is important.

Are you part of the DEAL?

What is it you ask? The Delaware E-mail Alert List is the Sierra Club's way of allowing you to weigh in on the political wheeling and dealing that happens in Washington, DC and in Dover. If you are a DEAL member you will receive updates on votes that are pending in Congress or in the state's general assembly via e-mail. Each alert will include information about the situation and contact information so that you can write or call to share your views. This promises to be a busy year with the tight state budget and the aggressive anti-environmentalism we are seeing in Congress...and next year leads up to the elections! Join DEAL by sending your name and email address to debbie.heaton@sierraclub.org.

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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U.S. Senator Tom Carper (D)

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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 (302-571-8097). The deadline for materials for the next issue (September) August 11, 2003.

We reserve the right to edit materials submitted for publication. Send Materials and Letters to the Editor to: marlenerayner@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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Letter from the Chair

Matt Urban, Chapter Chairperson

It's amazing how much can happen in three months. As I sat to write this column and looked back it was amazing to me to see all that has taken place. When I was writing for the last newsletter, the war hadn't even started, and in the span of time since the last issue, it's already come and gone. And in that same period of time, our chapter has been mighty busy as well!

To start with, we moved to a new home! Our previous location at 1304 North Rodney Street was functional, but we could see ourselves quickly outgrowing the space. A great opportunity opened up at Community Services Building at 10th & Orange St. in Wilmington and after deliberation as to whether Wilmington was the appropriate location, we decided to go for it. Debbie Heaton, now on staff as our Chapter Conservation Director, is enjoying her new home there - if for no other reason than she actually gets to interact with other humans now!

Speaking of other humans, there are some new names and faces in the chapter this spring. Diana Silbergeld has begun working at our Wilmington office. She was hired through the national Sierra Club organization and will be working in our state on some of the upcoming federal judicial nominations. As you may or may not know, quite a bit of environmental policy is determined by courts, so her position here is very positive move and will help ensure a fair and level playing field in the future of our federal court system.

Debbie will also be joined in the office by Olga Denischik, who will work with us as a summer Conservation intern. Olga's work will focus on air and water pollution problems caused by the Indian River Power plant in Millsboro Delaware and other industrial facilities in the Delaware City area.

We also have a new face on our Executive Committee. In March, our committee voted to add a new member to fill a vacant position. He is Eric Vanimboting, our current membership chair. Eric's enthusiasm and fresh ideas will be a great asset to our chapter's leadership.

Ok, now that all the changes have been noted, I want to send sincere thanks to everyone who has responded to our March fundraising letter. The response has been magnificent, and we can't thank you enough for your continued support. We couldn't be doing what we're doing without your support, and it's greatly appreciated!

Finally, get out there and enjoy the summer! We'd love to see you on one of our outings, so be sure to check out the outings listings elsewhere in the newsletter. We've got a number of activities ranging from short day hikes, to informational / educational excursions, to overnight (or longer) trips.

See you out there! *Matt*

The fundraising committee needs your help!

In the recent months, our committee has dwindled from 5 members to 2 full-time and 1 part-time member. We are seeking volunteers to help with event planning, donor campaigns and other fundraising activities. The success of our fundraising programs directly impacts what we can or cannot accomplish as a chapter. No previous fundraising experience is necessary and training is available. Please contact Matt Urban if you're interested in getting involved or learning more.

Wild Places Cool Spaces 2003

The chapter's silent auction evening will be Friday, October 10.

Mark your calendar NOW

Consider donating an item for the auction.

Wednesdays in Dover and DC at a distance

Debbie Heaton, Chapter Conservation Director

The new Chapter office is in Wilmington but on many Wednesdays this spring I have taken my portable office to Dover as part of an effort to increase Sierra Club's presence in the General Assembly. Wednesdays have turned out to be the day to be in Dover because committee meetings are held then, as well as Senate sessions. (The House meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays)

LOBBYING Learn the Basics

Environmental Lobby Day
in Dover

Wed. June 18th

Seminar: 10:30 - noon
Attend committee
meetings after lunch
Call 302-425-4911 to
reserve your spot!

Senator McBride and Rep. Quillen chair the Senate and House committees, respectively, that focus on environmental issues. Depending on which committee a bill is assigned to, other committees may review and comment on environmental bills as well. These two natural resource committees have been busy reviewing the Chronic Violator Penalty bills that the Governor presented with the aid of Senator McBride and Rep. Smith. Each of the bills brought forward has had a hearing in both environmental committees.

The same group has attended all four hearings: Bill Wood representing the Chemical Industry Council along with members of the council and various environmental group representatives. I was able to testify on behalf of SC at each of the hearings hoping to get some strengthening amendments added to the bill but to no avail. These bills apparently were the product of careful compromises between industry and the Governor's office. Any changes, we were told, would kill them.

While attending the hearings and committee meetings I have had the opportunity to meet and talk with many of the senators and representatives elected to represent all of our members (we have about 1,950 members in Delaware now!). What I have heard is that many of them take on issues because of their constituents. In some cases they have received numerous calls on specific topics and have followed up with the callers to learn that something was needed to solve the problem...hence the start of new legislation. The Chronic Violator Penalty bills were most likely conceived after the Motiva and Metachem situations. A bill that looks at state preparation for future droughts was introduced recently because of questions constituents raised.

Delaware is a small place and one that enables you to write or call your elected officials. Especially those in the General Assembly. I mention calling or writing because email may be quick, but I recently learned that many members of the general assembly will not respond to email as quickly as they will to letters. And because Delaware is so small your concerns when concisely communicated could have an effect on what is worked on, or how a vote is placed.

And don't forget that letters and phone calls are also appreciated by Senators Biden and Carper as well as Rep Castle. Delaware is in a unique position with two strong democrats in a senate where many of the environmental votes are close. They appreciate hearing from you and Sierra Club needs you to support the environmentally protective stances they have taken. Rep Castle is one of a few moderate republicans who has been looking at the facts and voting his heart and not always his party. He truly needs to hear from his constituents as he often takes a position different from that of his party leadership. Congressional mail is still getting carefully reviewed so you may want to send letters to their offices within the state.

Pristine Delaware?

by Al Denio, Sierra Club representative to Motiva's Citizen Advisory Panel

Once upon a time, Delaware had no industrial pollution. Then came the Industrial Revolution and with it the byproducts that nobody wanted. They were dumped upon the ground, perhaps buried, or dumped into rivers and streams. Eventually the automobile was developed and changed our society in unforeseen ways. Tetraethyllead was added to gasoline and soon we realized that the lead ended up in our environment. After many years we removed the lead from gasoline, but next we added MTBE (methyl tert-butyl ether). Now we find that in well water due to leaks from gasoline stations.

As the number of cars grew, more roads were built. Eventually Delaware became home to a segment of I-95 (plus I-495 and I-295) so that New Castle County has a major problem with auto exhaust. As summer approaches we know that ozone levels will increase to dangerous levels.

And then as we become dependent on electricity for our modern lifestyle, huge power plants were built. We now suffer from the pollution released by the Edgemoor and Indian River power plants.

Delaware's industrial sector has a multitude of chemical plants and a major petroleum refinery. DuPont started producing gunpowder along the Brandywine River about 100 years ago. As Delaware became home to a growing chemical industry, little effort was made to regulate toxic emissions and spills. Our state developed a "Friendly to Business" reputation as it pursued more jobs and tax income.

At a crucial point in Delaware's history, the "Coastal Zoning Act" was enacted to prevent the construction of additional chemical plants and refineries along Delaware's coast. This legislation was promoted by the administration of Gov. Russ Peterson, a former duPont chemist who left the company after a very successful career. After one term, from 1969 to 1973, his enemies in the business community led the battle that caused his defeat.

The industrial community still causes great pollution of our air, land and water. In this new century we have seen Metachem (formerly Standard Chlorine) file Chapter 11 and walk away from an incredible pile of highly toxic waste. The cleanup cost is estimated at \$70 million and will take years. I expect that the site will be declared "unfit for any use forever." And yes, your tax dollars will pay for much of the cost.

We also have been shocked by Motiva, the large refinery that had an explosion and fire that ruptured a steel tank holding highly concentrated sulfuric acid in July, 2001. Several workers were injured and one disappeared forever in the million gallon spill.

On May 4, another tank leaked 4,000 to 8,000 gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid. Motiva continues to try to project a responsible image and yet the accidents just keep coming. I am about to attend another meeting of Motiva's Citizens Advisory Panel as the Sierra Club representative. I shall continue to ask questions but I now wonder if my time would be better spent picking up highway litter.

At present I serve as Chair of our Anti-Pollution committee. The challenges are almost overwhelming. We have only a handful of members of this committee. We really need about 20 new members to be effective. You do not need to be a chemist. You do need to feel a sense of outrage at the damages that continue to be inflicted upon Delaware's environment by those in the business community that are "ethically challenged".

What can you do to help? You can contact your elected representatives. You can attend public hearings. You can write letters. You can become a real pain to those folks in industry and politics who think that business as usual is just fine. Delaware is far from pristine, but why not help to change the future?

**Call Al Denio at (302) 455-0389 or
volunteer with an e-mail to: (alvaldenio@aol.com).**

We Can Do Better!

The "Not-so" Blue Atlantic Pipeline, planned to extend from Canada to New Jersey, is an immediate threat to impact both Maine and New Hampshire coastlines.

by Pat Day Aichele, New Hampshire ACE Chapter representative

Sierra Club's Atlantic Coastal Ecoregion (ACE) Chapter representatives held a workplan retreat in Washington, DC, March 1/2, 2003. Volunteers discussed Chapter priorities and changes in coastal policy happening, or proposed, on the federal level. The advantage of the ACE perspective comes from its broad geographic breadth, by considering the coastline from Atlantic Canada to Florida. ACE continues to work hard to be responsive to the needs of this unique regional ecosystem. Task force delegates came from Canada and nine Atlantic Coastal states: Canada, Helen Lofgren; NH, Pat Day Aichele; MA, Cindy Delpapa; CT, Marci Wilkins, ACE Chair; NY, Laurie Farber; VA, Tyla Matteson; NC, Vic D'Amato; SC, Barry Beasley; and FL, John Swingle. Sierra Club staff members, Elise Annunziata and Glen Besa facilitated, as the group forged ACE 2003/2004 goals.

The ACE "Keep It Wild" campaign mission is to preserve the natural coastal functions and protect our coastal wildlands while promoting a positive "co-existence" of humans and wild creatures. Chapter members reported some significant victories. In the past year, Sierra Club helped prevent detrimental coastal engineering projects at Hen and Chicken Shoals and the Delaware River. Workshops and conservation outings were organized in Long Island, Delaware, Chesapeake Bay area, and North Carolina to educate people about immediate and long-term threats.

In more specific Chapter interests, the federal protected areas of Chincoteague/ Assateague National Seashore and Park are threatened by a proposed ecotourism plan. Cape Bretton Island in the Atlantic Canada Chapter has offshore and coastal petroleum threats. Gravel mining, CAFOs, water contamination from toxic ponds caused by coal mining and steel, make up much of Canada's coastal problems. New Hampshire's ground water is threatened by USA Springs proposals. Sprawl affects every coastal state from Maine to Florida. Energy plans for more oil/gas pipelines and power grids endanger the entire coastline.

Current energy issues affect coastal wildlands and water quality. The Bush administration and his "oil grubby buddies" are pushing an energy plan that will expand our Nation's dependence upon fossil fuels and will increase ener-

gy-related development along our coasts. Gas and oil development offshore and along our coasts will harm coastal wildlife, threaten commercial and recreational fishing and jeopardize water quality. Ongoing gas and oil development in Atlantic Canada with potential development along the Atlantic Coast of the United States is definitely a regional/international issue. There are numerous proposed energy pipeline projects, pushing through delicate marine habitat.

The Blue Atlantic gas pipeline, planned to extend from Canada to New Jersey, is an immediate threat to impact both Maine and New Hampshire coastlines. ACE will focus on ways to stop new pipelines, or to make sure that pipelines are least environmentally destructive. In mid-April, Marci Wilkins, ACE Chair; Elise Annunziata, Senior Regional Representative, Appalachia Region; Pat Day Aichele, NH task force representative; and Cathy Corkery, NH Chapter Lobbyist, will meet with Vivian Newma in Maine. Vivian is the lead volunteer tracking the Blue Atlantic Pipeline project. With Vivian's guidance, ACE will develop an action plan: organizational goals, lobbying activities, fund-raising targets, and education.

Numerous dredging projects and beach management activities are destroying our natural beaches and shorelines, most often at public expense. The Army Corps of Engineers, state and local coastal agencies, at enormous public expense, are pushing projects to encourage development that would destroy wetlands, threaten offshore habitat, harm commercial and recreational fisheries and increase the risk of catastrophic economic loss from hurricanes, and big storms.

We can do better! Americans should not be asked to subsidize these destructive, unnecessary projects. Better planning for less destructive alternatives, alternative energy sources, increased efficiency and conservation, can save taxpayers dollars and protect our remaining natural shorelines. ACE can always use more interested coastal advocates.

Contact

**Dick Bewick (302-736-1670 locally) or
Pat Day Aichele at 207-439-6512 and
help protect
our coastal heritage.**

BOOK REVIEW

The Party's Over, "Oil, War, and the Fate of Industrial Societies"

by Marlene Rayner

"Sooner or later we all sit down to a banquet of consequences."

Robert Louis Stevenson 1885

"Anyone who believes exponential growth can go on forever is either a madman or an economist." Kenneth Boulding 1980

Part of my long winter reading was this new book (2003 New Society Publishers) by Richard Heinberg. Richard is a member of the core faculty at New College of California in Santa Rosa; he has written four previous books. The book is a riveting wake-up call about world oil depletion in the same manner as Rachael Carson's "Silent Spring".

It begins with many prominent petroleum geologists' projections on oil supplies; no matter the source of study (USGS most optimistic), the world is on the down side of the supply curve -the last 100-150 years max with the most difficult and expensive left to extract. The present energy alternatives are less than adequate to supply just our present global energy uses. Most of the alternatives require significant energy (petroleum) in their manufacture, so net benefits remain a problem. The issue is -do we begin to do anything about finding new energy sources now OR wait till economies collapse and wars are waged in 50 years or less? *Oops -forgot we're already there. ...*

The author does an excellent job tracing the history of the world from the viewpoint of civilizations' ability to control energy to accomplish things (whether wood fires, slavery, transportation, power plants or money). The theme of this book strongly reminded me of the book "Guns, Germs, and Steel" but answering the ultimate question I had from that book -why, besides germs?

It also tackled the issue of America's economic success and power, something we Americans attribute to our immigrant individualism, creativity, and hard work. The author points out that past European populations knew settled agriculture and emigrated because of resource depletion and population pressures; these same issues were probably the cause of peoples' migrations from Africa since the beginning of man's time on earth. So our surplus of resources, land (to farm and mine), energy [wood (early), coal, and oil] and our people determined our fate. US has differences of opinion with "Old Europe" are precisely because this Europe has been densely settled a long time and had to learn to live with limits there; we have not.

Energy became even more

important with the advent of the industrial revolution -because very high (and cheap) energy (*that couldn't be satisfied by slavery alone*) was required to fuel it. Both WWI and WWII were begun and determined by oil -especially its lack. This viewpoint clearly explained why Germany invested so many resources into the chemistry of coal and products from it and why Japan (no oil) thus needed Indonesia. The cold war was a war for resources with two different philosophies. The US is the largest consumer (and per capita consumer) of oil. Until 1970, the US produced as much oil as it consumed. Our need for this energy and the dominance required for acquiring it, was recognized as early as post WWII by most governments. A quote from a very frank State Department Policy Planning Study just after WWII by George F. Kennon says it all: "We have 50% of the world's wealth, but only 6.3% of its population. In this situation our real job in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships which permit us to maintain this disparity. To do so, we have to dispose with all sentimentality-" (Today we are 3% of the population and consume 25% of its wealth.)

After 1970 the US could no longer control oil price stability, because the production centers were not under its control. Thus, America came to support (and agreed to defend I found out in the book) countries and leaders who were less than democratic. Furthermore, because of political inaction to tackle the issues since the 1970s, the world may have lost the opportunity to make a smooth transition to a world without oil in 100 years. The predictions are not pretty

I learned some things from this book, which we all should know e.g.: *The world's entire economy is built on petroleum use AND is based and runs on borrowing and borrowed money (largely controlled by the west to benefit themselves).

*The world trades oil in US dollars (borrowed of course); thus, the US greatly benefits from oil trades.

Over all, this book does not renew my faith in the world's ability to deal with any energy or environmental issue. In general, we haven't. We have just 'moved on' to despoil somewhere else.

It only reinforces another article I also read in the Spring 2003 "Yes - a journal of positive futures"; this article was titled "Surviving the Great Dying".....

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Railroads, the 19th/early 20th century's subsidized, but very efficient, transportation spread population, moved goods, and spawned clustered town growth across country. Railroads linked cities and small towns, even in forgotten and thinly populated rural areas of our country for a time (i.e. the north country of New York State) [North Country by F. Moser]. However, post-WWII new subsidies favored road building over any public transportation. The railroads went into decline. Road building flourished, fueling the sales of cars, one of the most environmentally hostile means of transportation (uses lots of petroleum per individual trip and leaves lots of pollution behind).

As the population boomed post WWII, most growth went primarily into these locally unregulated, thinly populated suburban areas (L. Jones, America and the Baby Boom Generation, 1980). These areas are generally cheaper to build on (dwelling only), particularly without provisions for public water supplies and sewage disposal and public monies paying for roads. With this process, we have become a "subsidized-road-dependent society". This situation exists ONLY because roads allow it. Road building does not "ease congestion"; road building only opens areas to easy access and more development. The last 50 years, and particularly the last 25 years, has seen Delaware enter this phase with gusto.

Finally, education policy, which made school attendance dependent on one's address, finished the job of spurring sprawl for all the obvious social reasons. In Delaware this education policy not only supported huge racial and social inequities in education -mostly segregated 35 years ago, it also spurred growth and development gerrymandering. When this policy was forcibly changed in northern Delaware by federal court order in the 1970s, it led to longer bus rides to public schools AND more private schools to escape the burden. Delaware today is a leader among the states in numbers of private schools, while public schools suffer losses of many able students.

THE RESULTS

Unregulated growth and unregulated sprawl results in fragmented and finally non-existent communities. Government by 'those in the know' has become a fact. 'Those in the know' has come to mean our public officials and the 'local urban growth machine' (Fodor's term) -speculative land developers, builders, road construction companies, real estate companies, banks, newspapers, etc (all those who greatly benefit). Today most of the 'machine' is very big global business.

PLACING THE BLAME

Population growth itself does not make sprawl, sprawl is a consequence of politics, attitudes, and lack of local regulatory practices controlling the elements of growth. Expanding personal consumption levels and in-migration from other areas only add to the pressure. Post WWII mass-marketing consumerism (a period we are still in) and the re-rise of business power over the last 20 years, have together further fueled the frenzy. Poorly conceived business subsidies for "economic development" and local inexperience/lack of control dealing with powerful business interests result in poorly designed development. The extra "infrastructure" eventually required for sprawling growth have contributed to higher taxes, greatly decreasing quality of local life, and diminished local resources. Who in Delaware hasn't experienced these very problems?

Personal consumption increases

Between 1970 and 1990 US population has risen 22%; the number of households has increased 47% with fewer people per household (2.63 vs. 3.14). However, the 39% increase in household size (from 1500 sq ft to 2080 sq ft)! [US Bureau of Census, 1995] and expanded land use are the real problem. Chicago's population grew by 4% from 1970-1990 and its land use increased by 46%. LA grew 46%, while land use increased by 300%. Of the land used for this kind of growth, 25% is used for roads for ever-larger automobiles. We have become a highly consump-

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tive society -perhaps good for our economy 'short term', but the long term economic and environmental consequences are enormous. The US population is now 3% of the world's total population (earlier we were 6%); however, we still use 25% of the world's resources.

In-migration fuels local population growth

In-migration results from people moving in to take advantage of perceived benefits of your community (the beach areas!, peace and quiet, jobs, natural beauty, etc.); the fastest growing areas of the US have resulted primarily from in-migration. Studies of traditional economic development policies at the local and state level have shown that when new jobs are created, 30-50% of them go to in-migrants (not locals where it was intended) on the short term; long-term 60-90% go to the newcomers [T. Bartik, "Who benefits from local job growth, Migrants or the Original Residents?" Regional Studies vol. 27 (1993) pp.297-311]. This growth, if not VERY carefully managed, has resulted in sprawl.

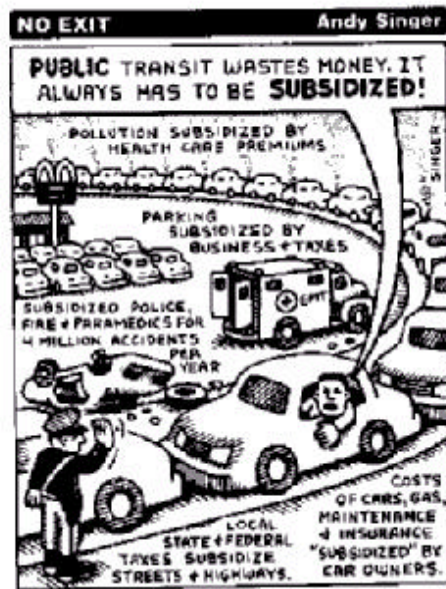
In Delaware, our lack of responsible planning, our existing corporate charter laws, and the change in the banking laws in the 1980s (resulting in Delaware becoming a center for credit card companies and corporate incorporations) have helped fueled the process. The result has been high growth; the price has been severe sprawl spreading from the northern job centers to within a 1.5 hour one-way automobile drive from them. Delaware has also been ranked first in the country by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for providing a legal climate conducive to business. These incorporation laws also give Delaware a reputation for supporting lack of corporate responsibility and those subsequent recent problems for the economy and the environment. So maybe our taxes haven't risen so fast as in other regions of the US; however, there is a price for everything....

WHO PAYS and THE COSTS

What 'those in the know' do not want us to know are the real costs of poorly managed or unregulated growth fueled by economic development and suburban sprawl; this kind of growth rarely pays its own way. The monies spent come from the local taxpayer and the reapers are 'those in the know'. The quality of life and environmental issues are well-documented -traffic, increased driving times less family time, water supply and water quality issues, waste disposal, and air pollution -to name a few.

Where are the costs?

For each new job created, studies have shown the economic development cost alone (subsidies of our tax \$\$\$ to businesses to move to your area) to the taxpayers to be between \$15,000 and \$50,000 per job. If you look at how many locals were hired, the costs are more than doubled! When the costs for the immediate or eventual infrastructure required (roads, sewers, water, fire stations, schools, parks, libraries, etc. etc.) are examined on a unit-household-built basis, the subsidy is \$20,000-\$30,000 -and even more for sprawl growth (Nicholas et al. A Practitioner's Guide to Development Impact Fees, 1991). Many studies have shown that new sprawl development tends to increase taxes and the areas with the greatest rates of this growth have the greatest tax increases [DuPage County Development Dept, Planning Division, Impacts of Development on DuPage County Property Taxes (DuPage, ILL 1991). Of course, it's the less experienced local areas fighting for survival against very experienced and powerful monied interests, who want to use your money to make their money. The costs in Delaware have been severely increased sprawl and proliferation of roads and traf-



with permission from Andy Singer

fic. Increased gasoline use, nutrient run-off and pollution to the waterways and inland bays -due to lack of sewers (and instead septic systems) and use of fertilizers and chemicals for those suburban landscapes. Our resort areas have also seen great declines in the very qualities vacationers seek, which will eventually cause losses in revenues. Add industrial pollution to this (doesn't it seem like we the taxpayer always pay for the clean-ups?) and you have quite a mess.

SOME TACTICS TO THWART GROWTH AND SPRAWL

(Better known as -no one has thus far been able to control growth well.)

- * **We, the majority who live here, must take control of the process.** These issues are fragmented all over the US; it is easier for 'those in the know' to accomplish their goals than the individual communities to stop it (e.g. The recent Walmart intrusion in Smyrna was not generally approved by those who actually live there.). Get together with other communities to stop business black mailing for the best subsidies (Astra-Zeneca's competition between Delaware and Pennsylvania is a good recent example). Demand public scrutiny and accountability regularly. Get the money out of politics.
- * Remind ourselves regularly that conspicuous consumption is unethical and a very bad example (to our children and the rest of the world) in our world of decreasing/limited resources. We no longer (actually never had) have unlimited choices.
- * Demand real citizen representation on economic development, land use planning, and other citizen committees (not just from every business interest [by the way paid for this job by their employers] and 2 token unpaid environmentalists).
- * It's OK to be a NIMBY (especially an active one!); do NOT allow that criticism to be used by 'those in the know'. Most of 'those in the know' do not live where they want to do their dirty business.
- * Hire planners of our own to refute developers' arguments in planning meetings; make sure the process examines all costs.
- * **Terminate development programs that cannot support their costs.**
- * Learn to say no to federal money for road building. Demand more subsidies for retrofit (already sprawled areas) public transportation -including long distance train travel -an efficient form of transportation.

- * Channel infrastructure money, economic incentives, sewer building, and subsidized home loans to areas for redevelopment, in-fill, and compact planning within already existing areas. **Note the looming sprawl issues with completion of route 1 today in Delaware.**

Sources used include, among others [noted], the environmental conscience of the GOP- REP America (theGREENelephant, particularly Summer and Fall 2002 issues "Why Sprawl is a Conservative Issue" by Michael Lewyn); the book "BETTER NOT BIGGER" by Eben Fodor 1999) and an excellent News Journal report (3/9/03) "Development in Delaware is closing in on rural charm" by Molly Murray.

Delaware Chapter Change of Address Form	
Attach mailing label here	
Name	
New Address	
City	
State	Zip
Please send this coupon to Sierra Club , P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968.	



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

OUTINGS

Please contact leader listed to register participation. For cold weather outings, please dress properly and be certain to stay with the group at all times. Hikes are labeled whenever possible for their difficulty [strenuous=S; moderate=M; low=L] and recreational (R), education (E) and conservation [C] content.

Stream Restoration Field Trip New Castle County and (optional) Kent County

Saturday, June 14th.
Raindate, Sunday, June 15th.

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and until 5 PM
for the Kent County Option

Nearly 90% of Delaware's Piedmont and Coastal Plain streams and riparian wetlands have been degraded by historic land-disturbing practices that include channelization, stream relocation and containment, flood plain and wetland filling, alteration of hydrology by impervious development, and removal of natural streamside communities. Delaware is exceptional in the degree to which natural stream geometries and in-stream habitat have been lost by these activities.

Join the Chapter on an educational outing to visit stream restoration sites where the natural geometry of the pre-development stream and associated floodplain have been restored by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Drainage Program and the Subaqueous and Wetlands Section. Tours of a pre-reconstruction site and two re-constructed "applied stream morphology" projects in New Castle County (All Saints Cemetery and Delaware Park Race Track) will be conducted by DNREC Program Manager Bruce Jones and Environmental Scientist Jim Chaconnas. Those who wish to continue on to walk a major coastal plain stream/floodplain restoration can visit the Drainage Section's restoration at the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Haines Tract Wildlife Management Area in Kent County.

To request a pre-outing information package with further information including stream restoration plans, maps, and directions, call Carl Solberg, 302-492-1225.

Camping and Hiking in White Mountains of New Hampshire

Leader: Eric Vanim-Botting
Date: First FULL week of August

We will be arriving at Dolly Copp Camp Ground on Monday, August 4th. We will do two hikes in the White Mountains. **We have room for ten people on this trip and spaces are limited.**

The first hike (Rated M) will be on the 6th to the Carter Notch Hut where we will overnight. Folks that want to do the first hike should meet us at Dolly Copp by the evening of the 5th of August, as we'll be headed out very early on the 6th. We'll go up pretty early, on the trail by 9:00 AM. We'll come back the next day (August 7) after lunch, getting back before dinnertime.

The second hike will be the one I did last year, hiking down off the top of Mt. Washington, through the Great Gulf Wilderness, back to Dolly Copp. **Rated S.** We'll do the second trip on Saturday the 9th of August. We'll break camp on Saturday Evening and then drive back on Sunday. People wishing to go on the Great Gulf Wilderness Hike should meet us at Dolly Copp by the evening of August 9th. The van leaves Dolly Copp at around 8:00 AM on the 10th.

Anyone wishing to participate in this adventure should contact Eric Vanim-Botting no later than July 15th at 610-213-9279. Slots are limited to 10 for each hike and they will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Each participant will be required to make their own reservations at Carter Notch Hut and Dolly Copp Camp Ground. You must also make their own reservation at the Carter Notch Hut for the night of the 6th and at Dolly Copp Campground for the balance of your stay. This can be done by calling the AMC Base Camp in Pinkham Notch at 603-466-2727. The hut is \$ 22.00 for the night (\$ 20.00 for AMC members). Be sure to tell them that you are a part of the DE Sierra Club Group so they can put us together.

To get up to the White Mountains you take I-95 North, up the Jersey Turnpike, across the George Washington Bridge back onto I-95 North into Connecticut. Take I-91 North up through Hartford and Springfield. In Brattleboro, VT you take Rt. 9 East toward Concord, NH. 9 turns into I-89 South. In Concord you get onto 93 North. You take 93 North up to exit 23 at mile marker 69. You take NH Rt. 25 North to NH Rt. 104 North to NH Rt. 16 North through North Conway into the White Mountain National Forest via Pinkham Notch. You will see signs for Dolly Copp campground (not the picnic area) on the left a few miles before you get to Gorham, NH. You will also need to purchase a parking permit for the White Mountain National Forest. This can be done at the EMS in North Conway or the Pinkham Notch Base Camp before you get to Dolly Copp. The price is \$ 5.00 for a week. Dolly Copp Camp Ground is \$ 15.00 per day and reservations can be made at <http://www.reserveusa.com>. We are going to be staying in the Riverside section of Dolly Copp in space 141. At this time, spaces 139, 143, 145, and 147 are all available during that week, so if folks want to be camped in the same area, these are the spots to take. You can check out the hut at <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/huts/huts-carter.shtml>.

Description: Anyone planning on doing this trip check out <http://www.Mount Washington.org> and read all of the hiking information they have available. Also, this link <http://www.outdoors.org/activities/hiking/hiking-weather.shtml> gives you a good idea what kind of weather and conditions you might expect. Appropriate mountaineering gear is necessary for this trip, including large water containers (camelback like water system recommended), a water purifier, clothing appropriate for the weather (we could even see snow in August), lunch, heavy-duty hiking boots, and a camera. I have maps.

Canoe Trip, Saturday July 19 - Mid-day - later afternoon
Float down the Spring Creek south of Dover, weather dependent.
For info call Phil at 302-698-1998

Eco-Cruise up the Broadkill, Saturday, August 16

6:00 p.m. at the dock at Angler's Marina, Lewes.
Details are still being planned. Tickets will be about \$40 per person. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided. There is the possibility of a wine and beer cash bar. Last year this trip sold out and space once again is limited. Reserve your spot call Debbie at 302-425-4911!

Mountain Biking - Brandywine River Park, Sunday, August 24th

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Contact Matt at 302-475-9880, ext. 17

Bus trip to Mantua, New Jersey: Visit Omni Recycling Plant Saturday June 7

Find out how New Jersey recycles four times as much as Delaware. For info and to rsvp contact Debbie Heaton 302-425-4911 or Al Matlack at 302-239-5383. This is a joint trip with the Society of Natural History of Delaware.

TERRI TREKS Terri Tipping, leader

A change of pace for the summer months. To beat the heat, we'll have a short evening hike, followed by a stop at McGlynn's, a local pub (for those that want). Hike leader will buy the first round of beer (but only for those that hiked!). Tuesday's is 1/2 price burgers (veggie and regular); Wednesday's is all you can eat wings \$8.95.

NOTE: Please verify the week of the hike either with the trip leader (tipping@gunnip.com or 302-225-5120), or the office 302-425-4911 that the hike has not been cancelled or the date changed. We will hike in the rain.

Tuesday 6/10, 7/8, 8/12
6:30pm

White Clay Creek State Park - Judge Morris Estate

Easy 4 mile hike on the Judge Morris Estate property. The hike will take no more than 1.5 hours. Meet by 6:30pm at the Judge Morris Estate section of White Clay Creek State Park (.6 miles north of Kirkwood Highway on Polly Drummond Hill Road). \$2.50 Park entrance/parking fee. Bring water. *This hike is rated L.*

Wednesday 6/18, 7/23, 8/2
6:00pm

White Clay Creek State Park - Possum Hill

We will hike approximately 4.5 miles along the Bryan's Field and Whitely Farms trails. The hike will take approximately 1.5 hours. Meet by 6pm at the Possum Hill parking lot (from Paper Mill Road, route 72, turn west onto Smith Mill Road, park is signed, parking lot is at end of the road). \$2.50 Park entrance/parking fee at this time of year. Bring water. *This hike is rated L.*

Sustainable Agriculture! Saturday July 12 9am-3pm

Visit two organic farms to learn about their methods and the benefits to the environment.

For info and to rsvp contact Matt Urban at 302-521-4495 or Al Matlack at 302-239-5383.

This is a joint trip with the Society of Natural History of Delaware

SIERRA CLUB SOCIALS

Wilmington

Thursday June 19, 6:30 pm
 Thursday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday, August 21, 6:30 p.m.

Dover

Thursday June 5th, 6:30 pm
 Thursday July 3, 6:30 p.m.
 Thursday August 7, 6:30 p.m.

Kelly's Logan House

Trolley Square
 Wilmington, DE
 Info: 302-425-4911

Smithers/ downtown

Dover, DE
 Info: Ron 302-735-8996
 Phil 302-698-1998

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION COUPON

New Member Name _____
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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____

Membership Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory	\$25	
Regular	\$35	\$43
Supporting	\$50	\$58
Contributing	\$100	\$108
Life	\$1000 (per person)	\$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

Frip No. F94QW58001

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.

Executive Committee - July 15, August 9

**Conservation Committee-
June 18** (special guest John Blevins from DNREC)
August 20
October 15,
Dec 17 (tentative)

All of these meetings will be held in the library of the Wesley United Methodist Church (main church building on the ground floor) at 209 South State Street in Dover. Meet in the back parking lot to enter the building.

Southern Delaware Group

Contact Steve Callanen 539-0635

**Executive Committee
 Wednesday, June 25, 2003
 @ 7 p.m.**

Place: Til Purnell's
 (945-1317 for directions)
 All Sierra Club members welcome!

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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: John Calaway, Director, Gift Giving, Sierra Club, 85 Second St, 2nd Floor, San Francisco CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

June, July, August 2003

Delaware Sierra News

Delaware Chapter
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