

Fall/Winter 2014
2014, Issue 2

SIERRA CLUB KITTATINNY GROUP



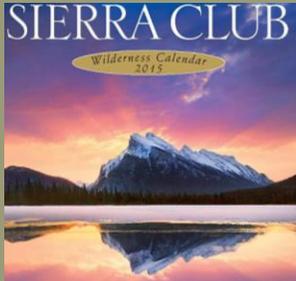
The Kittatinny Group serves Berks & Schuylkill Counties in Pennsylvania

Holiday Fundraiser

We are looking for individuals who are interested in helping with our Holiday Fundraiser. If you would like to help sell Sierra Club - 2015 Calendars at your work or to your family and friends, please contact us for an order form. Calendars can be distributed at the Holiday party in December so they are the perfect Holiday gift.

For order forms and more information, please contact Patti Fenstermacher at 610-767-4774 or e-mail

pfenstermacher@verizon.net.



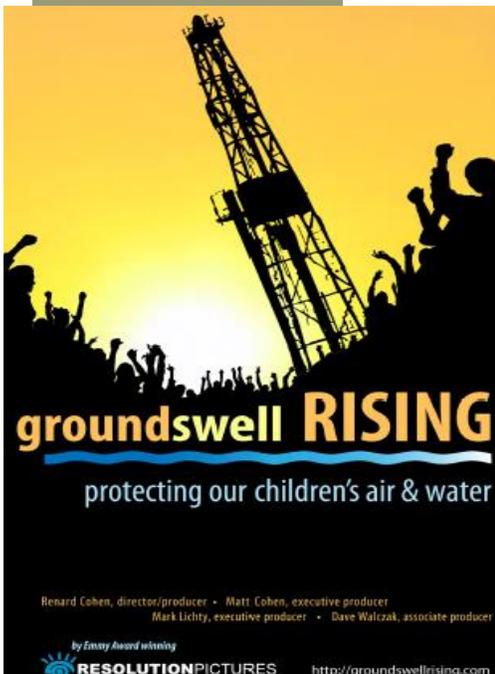
MOVIE NIGHT: "Groundswell Rising"

Two chances to join us!

Thursday, Oct 23 at 7:30 - Hosted by Albright College, Environmental Campus Outreach and Environmental Studies and Science Dept., Klein Hall, 3040 Kutztown Rd., Reading.

Friday, Oct 24 at 6:30 - Hosted by St. Barnabus Episcopal Church, 234 E Main St, Kutztown, PA. Special 'Sierra Stew & View' event includes hearty meal of soup, salad and dessert during panel discussion.

The Kittatinny Sierra Club presents two evenings of the film "Groundswell Rising" followed by discussion on how natural gas 'fracking' and pipelines will affect Berks and Schuylkill counties. Concern over the natural gas pipelines, compressor stations, water contamination, and climate change impacts from fracking-related development and eminent domain issues have prompted the engagement of the Sierra Club nationally. "Groundswell Rising," film screening, will include guest panel discussion with the film's Director, representatives from Berks Gas Truth and the Kittatinny Sierra Club.



SEE NEXT PAGE FOR FULL DETAILS



FREE *MOVIE NIGHT** FREE**

We will be having two free showings of the movie
Groundswell Rising.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23rd at 7:30PM at ALBRIGHT
No RSVP required for the Thursday Showing

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th at 6:30PM in KUTZTOWN
(Friday showing includes soup, salad and dessert)
Please RSVP for the Friday Showing

For a sneak peak of the film or to view the trailer visit the following website:
www.groundswellrising.com or film trailer at <http://www.groundswellrising.com/clips>

After the movie we will have a post-screening discussion panel that will include the film's Director Renard Cohen, Berks Gas Truth community organizer Karen Feridun, Kittatinny and Sierra Club Ex-com board member Darree Sicher.

Karen Feridun, founder of Berks Gas Truth, will share her local and national experience in the anti-fracking movement with solid, industry-resistant information. Her involvement with community, water and air contamination as well as the threat to democratic rights is invaluable, especially as natural gas pipeline and compressors are now positioned within Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Her experience shines a light on the recent admission by the PA DEP that over 243 cases of aquifer contamination have happened in PA, excluding contamination of private water wells.

To RSVP: E-mail: zinc5@enter.net or Fill out Form and Mail To:
Darree Sicher, 348 Pine Creek Rd, Kempton, PA 19529 *by October 17, 2014*

RESERVATION FORM

Note: there is **NO** charge to attend the "Sierra Stew & View" but we do require an RSVP so we will know how many are coming. **Please RSVP by Friday, October 17th.** *Monetary donations are accepted.*

_____ **YES**, I plan on attending the 'Sierra Stew & View' on Friday, October 24 at 6:30pm at St. Barnabus Episcopal Church, 234 E Main St, Kutztown, PA. The special 'Sierra Stew & View' event includes hearty meal of soup, salad and dessert during panel discussion.

NAME: _____ # of PEOPLE ATTENDING: _____

CONTACT PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Donation: _____

Questions? Or for more info please contact Darree Sicher at 610-823-8258 or zinc5@enter.net

About the Film – Groundswell Rising

“**Groundswell Rising, Protecting Our Children’s Air and Water,**” brings us into the lives of people from all walks of life and all sides of the political spectrum who are dedicating themselves to resisting, slowing down or stopping fracking. Driven by a deep moral conviction, we see how average citizens, convinced that this unproven form of gas extraction is a serious health and environmental risk, are standing up to one of the world’s most powerful industries. This IS the David and Goliath issue of our times.

The film takes us back to the groundswells of the past - the civil rights movement, women’s rights, the denormalization of cigarette smoking, and the environmental movement - for connection and inspiration. And looking forward we see how the resistance to fracking is part of a growing movement towards dealing with climate change and making the transition to sustainable energy. The notion that burning more fossil fuels as a bridge to a cleaner planet is explored.

We will see how an industry rich with political connections managed to slip into a position of almost untouchable power and how at-risk communities have come together to fight back. And we will see how not protecting the cyclical flow of air and water puts us all at risk, no matter where we live. **Groundswell Rising** is a story told by those who are living it, with honesty, passion and a sincere desire to protect our children and the world we leave them.

"When I learned that the Gas companies had quietly brought heavy industry into small residential communities, set up wells next to homes, schools, hospitals and playgrounds, I was outraged, “ says Renard Cohen Groundswell Rising Director. “ And when I saw there was a group of dedicated parents, scientists and community leaders organizing to fight this invasion, I was determined to make a film that would spread the inspiration of their work far and wide." Offered by Resolution Pictures, based in the Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania, this award-winning production company was founded in 1999 by brothers Matt and Renard Cohen. The team at Resolution has produced for PBS stations, The Food Network, HGTV, The Fine Living Network, and Court TV.

Movie showing on Thursday, Oct 23 at 7:30 - Hosted by Albright College, Environmental Campus Outreach and Environmental Studies and Science Dept., Klein Hall, 3040 Kutztown Rd., Reading. Questions? Or for more info please contact Darree Sicher at 610-823-8258 or zinc5@enter.net or Karen Feridun at 610-678-7726 or berksgastruth@gmail.com

Speak Up For Our State Lands

It’s time to get involved! The government is proposing to lift a moratorium on gas leasing in our publically-funded state parks and forests. If our government allows drilling and the construction of pipelines through public parks, they will damage public property and jeopardize fragile ecosystems. Our state forests are rare places that provide respite and recreation for our citizens. Our state forests and parks should be set apart, protected and preserved for the future.

We need your help to stop additional gas leasing of state park and forest land. We urge you to please take action by sending a message to your legislators so the General Assembly will not open the door to additional leasing.

Take Action – visit the website below to send a message to your state congress person:

<https://secure.sierraclub.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=12963>

Just being near gas exploration and drilling creates many risks for our state forests. Pollution respects no boundaries. Accidents with natural gas operations, like the recent explosion in Greene County, spills of toxic wastewater, and methane migration have occurred across the Commonwealth.

Additional leasing will bring with it noise and light disturbance from heavy machinery, seismic exploration, construction of new roads and pipelines, and increased truck traffic. These potential dangers and activities increase the risk of upsetting the natural habitat of animals, disrupting the peace that is associated with enjoying nature and threatening the health of nearby families.

The Governor's Enhance Penn's Woods initiative is laudable, but will not adequately protect our treasured open spaces. Please do not open up these areas to new oil and gas leasing. Your constituents have spoken - will you stand with us? About two-thirds of all Pennsylvanians oppose any more gas developments in and around the state forests and parks. These areas should be set apart, protected and held in trust for the future. For more information, visit the PA Sierra Club or national Sierra Club website. You are the Sierra Club you have been waiting for!

Last Highway Pick-up for the Year

On October 18th at 9am there will be a Highway trash pick-up near Blue Marsh Lake. We will meet in the parking lot of the Blue Marsh Canteen (5035 Bernville Rd, Bernville, PA 19506) at 9am. Located on Rte 183 just North of the Rte 222/Rte 183 interchange. It is roughly a 2 mile stretch and takes around 90 minutes (From Plum Creek Rd to Tulpehocken Rd.).

This event is rain or shine!

Hope to see you there... the more people that come, the quicker it goes!!

If you have any questions, feel free to e-mail me or call me...

Mark Fiorini, Kittatinny Group, Sierra Club organicallymark@yahoo.com or call 484-400-6272



Fall Executive Committee Meeting Schedule

Join us in planning events and discussing important environmental issues.

Tuesday, September 23rd @ 7:00pm at Kutztown Democratic Club

Tuesday, November 18th @ 7:00pm at Kutztown Democratic Club

If you are interested in attending our Holiday Party in December for a social outing, please let us know!

Contact kathystoica@gmail.com for Holiday party date and location.

****NEW WEBSITE****

We are unveiling a new website for the group this fall. We will be working to update the website on a more regular basis. If you have a chance visit <http://kittgroup.weebly.com/> to check it out.

November Elections – Candidate Endorsements

Each election cycle Sierra Club groups throughout the country go through the process of considering political candidates for a possible Club endorsement. Endorsements are useful in letting our members know who among those running for office embrace positions on environmental issues consistent with the values of the Sierra Club. Guidelines provided by the National Sierra Club Political Team are used by groups to help understand when to endorse a candidate, or not, as the decision to endorse is often complicated based upon several factors.

While our guidelines suggest no candidate should be judged on a single issue, we sometimes encounter debate among members when selecting candidates for endorsement who fail to embrace progressive positions on certain controversial and important environmental issues like fracking. While it seems most of our membership would prefer a ban or moratorium on fracking in Pennsylvania, our political committee has refrained from using a candidate's failure to advocate bans or moratoriums as a litmus test for candidate endorsements.

Candidate endorsement decisions are based on many factors, including legislative voting record (where applicable), responses to Club questionnaires and interviews, website content, polls, and fund raising. Sometimes an endorsement for a moderately leaning environmental candidate is acceptable when their opponent is known to hold strong anti-environmental positions.

Endorsements for state legislative candidates require a 2/3 vote from both the local group (Kittatinny) and the PA State Chapter executive committees. Once endorsed, members are encouraged to support the candidate by participating in campaign activities like phone banking, door to door canvassing, or attendance at public candidate events.

Sierra Club Endorsed Candidates for November 2014



Governor: Tom Wolf (D) – a successful businessman from York County and former PA Secretary of Revenue, Wolf's positions on the environment are generally positive despite his unwillingness to support state-wide bans or moratoriums on fracking. He is challenging a governor whose environmental record is a disaster, consistently putting corporate interests over those of the environment and public safety. Wolf is on record for supporting restrictions on fracking in state parks and critical watersheds, and advocates investment and incentives for the development of alternative energy production. Wolf's opponent is Republic Governor Tom Corbett.



US Congress: Manan Trivedi (D) 6th District – running for an open seat in the 6th legislative district, Trivedi is a physician and Iraqi war veteran with strong, clearly stated environmental positions. He supports legislation to limit greenhouse gas emissions, and advocates for clean and green energy technologies, including advanced solar, wind and geothermal. He also encourages improvement in energy efficiency, modernization of the electrical grid, and investment in our public transportation infrastructure. Trivedi's opponent is Republican county commissioner (Chester County) Ryan Costello.



US Congress: Matt Cartwright (D) 17th District – completing his first term in the House, Cartwright has been recognized as an environmental hero by the Sierra Club's National Political Team and has received high marks from the League of Conservation Voters for his legislative voting record. He understands the environmental hazards from unregulated fracking and believes the Halliburton Loophole, which allows fluids used in fracking to be exempt from protections under the Clean Water Act and Safe Water Drinking Act, should be closed.



PA House of Representatives: Fred Sheeler (D) 5th District – a former small business owner, Sheeler currently serves as Berks County Recorder of Deeds. He lists preservation of farmland and reclamation of brownfield sites as major issues he supports in Berks County. As Recorder of Deeds, Sheeler has created an electronic records storage and acquisition process to reduce his department's dependence on the use of paper. Sheeler's opponent is former Berks County Sheriff Barry J. Jozwiak.

Additional endorsements will be announced after the PA Sierra Club's State Chapter meeting, mid-September. Members interested in obtaining more information about the Kittatinny group endorsements, or those who want to get involved in political campaigning for candidates, may contact political chair, Dave Hemberger at dave.hemberger@gmail.com.

Endorsements for all PA candidates will be listed on the PA Sierra Club's website (under politics) at pennsylvania.sierraclub.org

Sierra Club Items for Sale

ORDER FORM

Ship to:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____ - _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Please supply your email address to receive updated order forms.

A real bargain and a best seller:

Excursion Bag -- large, sturdy, water-resistant, (15.5"l x 5"w x 14"h), zippered top, black with white stripes and black carrying straps with a Sierra Club logo. Great for shopping, camping or beach trips.

Convertible Weekender Bag:

Forest green with embroidered Sierra Club logo. A life saver when traveling and you develop that need for extra carrying space. Until that need arises this tough zippered 24" x 12" x 12" duffle bag folds easily into to its own compact pouch.

Call for details and questions

To Order: Use the order form. Add \$5.00 shipping for the first item and \$.75 for each additional item. Prices include tax for taxable items

Make Checks Payable to:

Sierra Club Kittatinny Group.

Mail check and order form to:

Patti Fenstermacher
6052 Krause Road
Schnecksville, PA 18078-3211
Questions?? Call:610-767-4774 or email
pfenstermacher@verizon.net

Item	Quantity	Price	Subtotals
SC Hiker T-shirts: high quality, 100% Organic Cotton	_____ @	\$15.00	_____
Order the quantity by color and size Natural Blue Green Black Red			
Medium	_____	_____	_____
Large	_____	_____	_____
X Large	_____	_____	_____
Caps -- adjustable size			
Tan organic cotton	_____ @	\$ 8.00	_____
Black cotton	_____ @	\$ 6.00	_____
Weekender Bag	_____ @	\$ 8.00	_____
Excursion Bag	_____ @	\$12.00	_____
Variety of Backpacks			
Messenger bags			
Gardening bag with kneeling pads			
Your choice	_____ @	\$15.00	_____

Sierra Club Calendars

Wilderness Calendar _____ @ \$13.95 _____
(13"H x 11"W with a flip open top spiral bound calendar that displays each month, when open it's hanging size is 26"Hx 11")

Engagement Calendar _____ @ \$14.95 _____
(9"H x 6"W spiral bound book that displays a week at a time on each page)

Subtotal for items _____

Shipping -- see "To Order" at left _____

Total _____

Thank you for your support! Patti



Book Night with the Maiden Creek Watershed Association: “A River Again” on November 5th at 7pm at Kutztown University, Boehm Building, Room 261. This is a FREE event.

The book, *A River Again*, by Chari Towne focuses on the environmental cleanup of the Schuylkill River in the 1940s and 50s. The books are available for sale from the Schuylkill River Heritage Area for \$21.95 and can be purchased by calling 484-945-0200. **They are also available as a free download from www.delawareriverkeeper.org.**

In the mid-20th century, the Schuylkill was one of the nation’s dirtiest rivers. The Schuylkill was on the brink of becoming a wasteland until, in 1945, the state of Pennsylvania agreed to undertake the Schuylkill River Project. It was the first major government-funded environmental cleanup, and it dredged millions of tons of coal culm from the river. That story, the events that led up to it, and the impact that it had, are the subject of *A River Again*.

Chari Towne, author, is a former Olympic rower who trained on the Schuylkill, and today works as the Schuylkill Watershed Specialist for the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. She is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a Master of Science degree in Natural Resource Planning.

SIERRA CLUB
c/o Kathy Stoica
540 Elm Street
Leesport, PA 19533

We're on the Web!
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