THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ROGUE NATION

By Bob Ciesielski
Sierra Club, Atlantic Chapter Energy Committee Chair

The first United Nations-sponsored meeting that attempted to construct an international process to protect the planet from climate change took place in Berlin in 1995. This meeting was labeled Conference of Parties 1 (COP1), referring to the nations partaking in the negotiations. At the 1996 COP2, the United States supported the scientific findings on climate change offered by the UN scientific body, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP3 in 1997, and would have required the United States to reduce its global emissions an average of seven percent below 1990 levels. The Protocol was signed by President Clinton, but was not ratified by the US Senate. The Bush Administration rejected the Protocol in 2001.

The Paris Climate Agreement was adopted at COP21 in December 2015. Many of you will remember the People’s Climate March in New York City, where 400,000 marchers demanded action on the threat of global climate change. The agreement was also preceded by a letter to all nations entitled Laudato Si by Pope Francis, calling for international action to protect the Earth and humanity. The Paris Climate Agreement was signed by some 195 nations, including the United States, and called for action to keep global warming temperature increases 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) below pre-industrial temperatures, and aspirationally at no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warming.

In June 2017, President Trump announced the intention to withdraw from the Paris Climate Agreement, transforming our country into a rogue nation. This announcement was quickly followed by disastrous hurricanes Harvey (Houston), Irma (Southern Florida), Maria (Puerto Rico) and Michael (Florida Panhandle). 2018 brought the catastrophic wildfires in California and above the Arctic Circle. This time around it feels different. We know that when power shifts, so does the dirty money in Albany.

In 2009, the last time there was a troika of Democratic control of the Senate, Assembly and governor’s office, opportunities to advance meaningful reform and environmental protection were squandered over concerns for short-term gains, so does the dirty money in Albany.

In New York, there is promise. The BLUE WAVE brings Green Potential

BLUE WAVE BRINGS GREEN POTENTIAL

By Roger Downs
Atlantic Chapter Conservation Director

T
he year of 2019 presents both peril and promise for New York as we tackle two cataclysmic forces — the increasing severity of climate change and the unhinged policies of President Donald Trump.

With comprehensive reports from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and 13 United States federal agencies warning that there is a narrowing 12-year window to limit a complete climate catastrophe, the urgency to act has never been greater. In stark contrast to this call to action is the Trump administration’s push to increase smoke-stack and tailpipe pollution as Midwest crops wither, Southern states flood and the West Coast burns.

In New York, there is promise. The much heralded ‘blue wave’ crashed over the NYS Senate in the fall elections, breaking 10 years of gridlock with a decisive 39-24 seat advantage for progressives. Sierra Club volunteers worked tirelessly across the state to elect leaders we knew were not only committed to protecting the environment but also resistant to influence from special interest money.

We know that when power shifts, so does the dirty money in Albany.

In New York, there is promise. The BLUE WAVE brings Green Potential

This time around it feels different. Twenty-five percent of the incoming 2019 Senate is completely new, representing an historic turnover of seats not seen in more than a century.

7-seat majority, Andrea Stewart-Cousins becomes the first woman president of the NYS Senate and brings with her a reputation for progressive values, and an ability to organize and legitimate a diverse Democratic Conference. For the first time, the ‘three men in a room’ negotiations will include a woman. There are hopes that her leadership style will infuse more light into the typical in-the-dark negotiations. With the prospects of breaking the legislative log jam in 2019, Senate leaders have already announced a number of important priorities, such as election reform, codifying reproductive rights, criminal justice reform, gun control, increased funding for education and improving our healthcare system — which they intend to pass in the coming months.

There have been fewer commitments regarding climate change or the environment. This may be largely because the legislative solutions to addressing threats of a warming planet are onerous and require vast societal changes as we adapt to a carbon-free future.

With an eye on maintaining control of the Senate through 2020, when the ruling party draws electoral maps, political leaders may be gun-shy of passing anything that will raise taxes or cause hardship for voters. But they should be equally wary of an increasingly engaged electorate that is watching the unfolding climate crisis in real time, and may be as politically costly as maintaining the status quo.

Over the past two legislative ses...
Blue Waves Bring Green Potential
continued from page 1

The Arctic Refuge is one of the Atlantic Chapter's core values upon which it stands firm. The Chapter recognizes that, almost always, the real threats in these fossil fuel infrastructure battles arise at the federal level (except for the rare occasion when FERC decides to wear a white hat), so finding ways to work in tandem with state agencies to block new fossil fuel infrastructure can be far more beneficial than being in constant opposition.

Thus the Chapter will continue to stand firm against pipelines, onshore expansions for drill cuttings, reprocessing coastal canals and coastal water locks to frack in other states, as well as any other fossil-fuel-related expansion in New York. The Chapter is a potential ally of any other person, organization or entity similarly committed to ending New York State's reliance on fossil fuels.

the wetlands. It’s also an important symbol of the wild, and an emblem of the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the Brooks Range – the northernmost mountain range on earth – the region is home to some of the most pristine wildlife habitat and most pristine wilderness in the United States but America’s Arctic is under attack, with dangerous threats to oil from drilling and the effects of climate disruption.

THE BATTLE FOR THE ARCTIC: PROTECTING ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

By Cathi Ferrante
Chair, Atlantic Chapter

The oil industry’s drive for bigger profits is increasingly threatening our coasts. Industry efforts to drill the Outer Continental Shelf threatens beaches and coastal economies from Virginia to Florida. As we’ve seen most recently with the BP disaster, drilling equals spilling. The Our Wild America campaign works to prevent the expansion of dangerous oil drilling and onshore oil, especially in places like America’s Arctic.

America’s Arctic is one of the last great wild places on the planet. It is a place where the landscape is untouched and where wildlife and plant species are represented by their most pristine forms. The region is home to some of the most pristine wildlife habitat and most pristine wilderness in the United States but America’s Arctic is under attack, with dangerous threats to oil from drilling and the effects of climate disruption.

THE WESTERN ARCTIC: The largest oil and gas reserve in Alaska is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (23.5 million acres across the western North Slope of Alaska, the Reserve is the largest single unit of public lands in the nation). The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) spans 22.5 million acres across the western North Slope of Alaska, the Reserve is the largest single unit of public lands in the nation. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) spans 22.5 million acres across the western North Slope of Alaska, the Reserve is the largest single unit of public lands in the nation.

In a notice posted to the Federal Register in April 2018, the Department of the Interior announced the process to hold a lease sale for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Last fall, Congressional Republicans slipped a rider into the budget opening the Refuge for oil and gas drilling.

The safe will target the coastal plain, the biological heart of the Arctic Refuge and home to lands and wildlife vital for the subsistence way of life of the Gwich’in Nation. Additionally, the environmental review that is required by law before any drilling is to begin, is being fast-tracked by the Trump Administration and is set to be concluded in half the time they usually take. Only one public hearing has been held outside of Alaska.

Several companies, including SAExxon, have shown an interest in drilling in the Refuge. This winter a team of experts testing for Arctic Refuge this winter. In a time when our climate is reaching a tipping point, we need to keep these dirty fuels in the ground and not threaten some of the most untouched and pristine remaining wild places in the country.

Ways you can get involved:

Call your Federal Representatives in Congress and tell them to protect the Arctic Refuge, keeping it wild and pristine.

Stand with the Gwich’in of the Gwich’in Nation and Protect the Arctic Refuge (Take Action here: https://wwwaddock.com/campaigns/support-the-gwich’in-peoples-effort-to-protect-the-arctic-nation/)

Learn more about our Our Wild America Campaign (https://content.sierrachicago.org/usourwildamerica/) and all readable paper bags distributed in NY Governor Cuomo prioritized a plastic bag ban last year but failed to get the Assembly and Senate to come to an agreement by the end of session.

Enacting a Comprehensive Food Waste Reuse and Recycling Law

This concept (as found in last year’s budget bill) would require the largest generators of food waste — supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, etc., to donate excess food and recycling food scraps (compost) in a way that drastically reduces landfill incinerator burden, feeds the hungry, reduces GHG emissions, and turns organic material to our soils.

Banning Single-Use Plastic Bags

Single-use plastic bags are an environmental menace — littering our parks, despoiling our communities and choking our waterways, all with the potential to strangle and poison wildlife. Sierra Club supports legislation that will prohibit the distribution of thin-film plastic, single-use carryout bags to consumers while imposing a 10¢ fee on each.

Banning All Oil and Gas Exploration in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The Trump administration announced in 2017 that 90% of America’s offshore waters would be open to oil and gas development, reversing an Obama-era ban on drilling. The new progressive Senate now has the opportunity to stop not only drilling block in NY’s offshore waters but also to codify NY’s fracking ban.

Banning Harmful Insecticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers

There is a backing of harmful herbicides and insecticides that have been banned or severely limited in Europe but not readily available — and applied — in the United States. The European Union banned these chemicals because of the impact they have on ecosystems, or on key animal species that benefit agriculture, public health and fisheries. It is obvious that many chemicals ban marks it to the governor’s desk.

It has become customary, if not a necessity in past legislative sessions to pack every prior issue into the budget because that was the only legislative package that needed to be made between Democrats and Republicans. Which compromise was essentially unitarian. With essential Democratic control, there may be room to separate budget negotiations from other high-priority, standalone issues this year. The 2018-19 budget, the Sierra Club will be urging continued funding for the Environmental Protection Fund at $350 million, water infrastructure programs at $900 million, and increased staffing for the Department of Environmental Conservation and other agencies integral to protecting our air and remaining wild places.

Anytime there is a sweeping transfer of power in Albany, there is also chaos as room assignments change, staff are fired and hired, and those so long in the minority have to learn the rules of leadership and governance. The new progressive Senate must be afire with ambition to return the reins of power, but it cannot be so cautious that it fails to address the looming disaster that is climate chaos, and all the social and environmental costs that stem from inaction. The Sierra Club is optimistic that the new Senate is up to the challenge.

Banning Pursuit Seining for Menhaden

Current New York fishery permits menhaden using large nets called “pursue seines” that have the capacity to catch hundreds of thousands of menhaden and the marine animals that pursue them in a single cast. Sierra Club supports banning the use of this technique so as not to set back the recovery of this keystone species and repeat the oversight mistakes.

Enhancing Wetlands Protections
About ten miles walk through a modest, tree-lined neighborhood, visitors to Cop- penhagen’s Amager Strandpark reach a pedestrian bridge that faces the southern tip of the island of Slien, Swed- en. Beyond a park of rolling dunes with a spectacular view, to the north, oil rigs are anchored in Copenhagen harbor.

Though they’re closer to shore and smaller than modern turbines, when I saw these in 2017, I was delighted — I’d been working for the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign for almost a year, with offshore wind as the most important component of my organizing.

Offshore wind is a critical renewable energy technology for ending our reliance on fossil fuels, especially in downtown New York. It produces large-scale, consistent power, utilizing the wealth of wind resources off our coast at lower areas of peak demand. The steady wind speeds, combined with a relatively shallow ocean floor, make New York’s Atlantic shelf a global hotspot for offshore wind.

For the next projects, the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) has discussed offshore wind expansion which could look in our state. Its Offshore Wind Master Plan, available on NYSERDA’s website, has a series of studies on mitigating impacts to wildlife, community, and the grid, maximizing local workforce potential and possible ports for in- and offshore use.

The offshore wind project has been described as "the most important project in the country" by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and as "a game changer" by former US Energy Secretary Rick Perry. It has also been labeled as a "game changer" for the state's economy and environment.

The project is expected to bring thousands of new jobs, with offshore wind developers, suppliers, and manufacturers all expected to benefit from the project. The project is also expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with offshore wind producing significantly less CO2 emissions than fossil fuels.

The project is expected to be completed in the next five years, with the first offshore wind farms expected to be operational by 2020. The project is expected to cost billions of dollars, with the state of New York expected to provide significant funding.

The project is expected to be a major boost for the state's economy, with projections showing that the offshore wind industry will create thousands of new jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic activity.
Moving Your Community
by Ellen Cardone-Blanks, Atlantic Chapter Conservation Chair

LAND-BASED WIND: AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTION

The Sierra Club has embraced the goal of a just transition to 100% renewable energy in all sectors — electric power, transportation, and energy use — no later than 2050. The scientific consensus is that we must cut our emissions by about 75% this decade.

40% of greenhouse gas emissions, must be electrified — not only passenger cars but public transportation and movement of goods. Rooftop solar and ground-sourced heat pumps will contribute for households. The best calculations indicate that large-scale solutions are essential to solve the climate crisis.

There are many pieces that lead to solving this problem. Energy efficiency is the most obvious in our state, even though it has been safe and successful in New York, other parts of the country and abroad. The largest wind farm in the state, Maple Ridge on the Tug Hill plateau north of the Adirondacks, with almost 200 turbines and 325 MW capacity, was built with very little to no opposition and was welcomed by local residents (I’ve interviewed residents of this community).

It has been peacefully coexisting with dairy farms and wildlife, bringing jobs, income and energy to the region since 2006.

Since Maple Ridge started operating, a multinational, highly coordinated, anti-wind campaign, with supposed scientific opposition, with supposed evidence of “dark money”/fossil fuel funding, has been deployed to severally part of New York State along the Lake Ontario and Erie shore areas, where wind projects have been proposed.

Opponents have circulated alarming and false brochures of bizarre wind turbine mishaps (burning into flames and flinging their blades across the countryside) and moved to gain in power in local government boards. Retired elected officials have been given huge anti-wind lobbying contracts from small communities that are already in distress. One of these towns lost tax income from a shutdown coal plant and has had to cut back on its school budget and local services. Instead of embracing the financial benefits of wind power they are taking in debt to oppose it.

Recently a new ploy has emerged to denounce wind farms as “corporate invaders of communities” — a particularly cynical move considering that fossil fuel corporations are among the largest corporations on earth. Yes, community-based renewable energy is an ideal but is not the goal of clean energy as is required, we cannot rely on small, individually funded solutions alone. Most of the products we use are “corporate” after all. Sierra Club values include commitment to just transitions, including appropriate landowner and community compensation, construction jobs with union-scale pay and benefits, and proper siting of wind turbines to protect wildlife. We should demand all these features in large-scale power projects. Wind power is one of the cleanest, least intrusive, large-scale energy sources. As Sierra Club members, we are committed to science and evidence. Land-based wind has earned our support.

MAPLE RIDGE WIND FARM ON THE TUG HILL PLATEAU, ABOUT 75 MILES NORTH OF SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Ensure your environmental legacy by naming Sierra Club or your favorite Sierra Club Chapter in your will or trust. These gifts cost you nothing now. You can hold on to your assets for as long as you need them and you can change your beneficiaries at any time.

If you have named Sierra Club or your Chapter as a beneficiary or would like to discuss doing so, please contact us today.

LORI SULLIVAN, Director of Gift Planning
2101 Webster St, Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612
(800) 932-4270
gift.planning@sierraclub.org
sierraclubplanning.org

MICROPLASTICS — AN ISSUE BOTH TINY AND HUGE

Microplastics range in size from a few millimeters down to microscopic and come from a variety of sources. Some are produced when larger plastic pieces break up into progressively smaller pieces. Some are from personal care products. A few years ago, the US banned the use of plastic “microbeads” in personal care products such as toothpaste and facial scrubs. Many plastic alternative substances are available.

Plastic pollution is a clear and severe problem in our waters, oceans, as well as freshwaters and land. Most of the studies to date have focused on the marine environment. The billions of pieces of plastic floating around and accumulating on beaches and in “garbage patches” have been documented by scientists, videographers and photographers around the world. Their effects on marine life are generally well known: entanglement and ingestion leading to an ultimate death.

Photos of marine wildlife tangled in plastic bags, fish caught in plastic as well as freshwaters and land. Most of the studies to date have focused on the marine environment. The billions of pieces of plastic floating around and accumulating on beaches and in “garbage patches.”

Many microplastics are dispersed throughout the water column, even on the bottom of the seafloor deep Mariana Trench. They’re also found trapped in Arctic sea ice. Numbers in rivers, lakes and oceans reach the trillions and quadrillions — and they don’t break down. Worse, these tiny bits of plastic act as magnets for chemical contaminants in the water.

These microscopic and sometimes contaminated pieces of plastic are eaten by small planktonic animals as well as by small planktonic animals as well as by small planktonic animals as well as by small planktonic animals as well as by many marine species.

Since microplastics attract chemicals in the water they provide a route for some chemicals to move into marine organisms. Furthermore, chemicals in the plastic itself may be available to the animals that consume it, going up the food web. And who sits on top of the food web?

We do. Undoubtedly, we all have microplastics in our tissues. Even if you don’t eat sea food, the sea salt that you might buy in a health food store contains microplastics since it is produced by evaporating sea water. Microplastics are also in the air we breathe and the water we drink. (Incidentally there are more in bottled water than in tap water, another reason to avoid those drinks in plastic.) By far the most abundant (approximately 88%) type of microplastic in our oceans tends to be long thin pieces, called microfibers. Where do they come from? Look no further than your laundry basket.

continued on page 8
WHATEVER GLOWS MIGHT NOT MAKE YOU STRONGER: HOPE AND NIGHTMARES ALL AROUND

By Kate Bartholomew, Chair
Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter

On September marked the first anniversary of the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) coming into force. The Abolition of Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) had advocated for the treaty for over 20 years. During March, June and July of 2017, treaty draft was crafted with input from 125 nations and a number of individuals. The text was completed on July 7, 2017 and opened for signing on September 20, 2017. It will enter into force once legally binding ratifications from 50 states have joined the treaty. There are currently 50 states that have signed the treaty but have not ratified it yet. The 50th ratification is expected to occur in August of 2018.

It is important to note that the treaty offers a path for nuclear states — those hosting nuclear weapons as well as those actually possessing nuclear arms — to join the signatures. Those non-hosting nuclear weapons states must agree to have them removed a specified date, and those possessing arms must agree to destroy the weapons in a prescribed manner by a set date. The full treaty text can be found here: https://www.iaea.org/treaty-on-the-prohibition-of-nuclear-weapons

Last year, as you may have read in a previous Sierra Atlantic, the Atlantic Chapter sent a resolution asking the National Sierra Club to support the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to the national Council of Club Leaders. Despite some interesting and sometimes awkward exchanges it passed, the CEC, as well as the National Sierra Club Board of Directors. That group also voted in favor of a slightly modified (but essentially the same) resolution, meaning that the national support bodes well for the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) has adopted a new campaign back from the brink. The idea behind this long-range campaign is to encourage a vast array of organizations, groups, municipalities, villages, churches, foundations, boards, etc. to pass a simple, five-part resolution designed to provide a means for nuclear powers to scale down — step “back from the brink” — to prevent destroying their allies.

As important as this treaty is, it is a sad fact that the slow Armagdoon of aging nuclear power plants and the ever-growing stockpiles of nuclear waste persist, accumulating around the country and around the world. I fear this is an example of the language that lies in a pot of cold water being slowly brought to a boil. The current administration, in addition to upgrading and reinvigorating our nuclear arsenal, is also means of removing Yucca Mountain as a permanent nuclear waste repository and restarting Yucca Mountain as a permanent nuclear waste repository and restarting Yucca Mountain as a permanent nuclear waste repository.

The Atlantic Chapter intends to contact multiple interim storage facilities — of the United States have more than a little reason for concern. For those desiring a course in environmental justice community, you can find more here: https://www.resource/back-from-the-brink-a-call-to-down — step “back from the brink” — to prevent destroying their allies.

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The IPCC report also outlines solutions. As the IPCC press release states: ‘The report finds that limiting global warm- ing to 1.5°C would need to rapidly and far-reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities. Global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2) would need to fall by about 45% from 2010 levels by 2030 to reach ‘net zero’ around 2050. This would involve reductions in industry, buildings, transport, and cities.

Volume II of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which is being released by Congress and issued by 15 federal agencies, was released in November 2018. It is called ‘Impacts, Interactions, and Adaptation in the United States’ and des- cribes the potentially cataclysmic consequences of current and future climate change impacts for the US economy, human health and well-being, and the natural environment (including agriculture, production, fisheries, and agriculture), infrastructure, ecosystems and ecosystems goods and services, and public health. These impacts, which will cost hun- dreds of billions of dollars, could re- sult in a ten percent reduction of the US gross domestic product (GDP) by 2100 ‘Volume 3 Climate Science Spec- ial Report’ was published in 2017.”

The National Climate Assessment Infor- mation Service is the US and has been published every four years, as required by the Global Change Research Act of 1990.


Support Chapter’s work in NYS

W e need your help to fight food fuel infrastructure, maintain the Chapter’s other critical conservation efforts and contin- ue to print publication of the Sierra Atlantic. Your membership dues primarily support the Club’s national priorities. Your additional support is needed to strengthen the Chapter’s work in the state Legislature and throughout the state.

Please use the coupon below to send us your donation. Contributions and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity.

Yes, I want to help the Atlantic Chapter preserve and protect the environment of New York State. I am enclosing my gift of:

$10 K $20 K $30 K $40 K $50 K $60 K $75 K $100 K $150 K $200 K $250 K $500 K $1000 K

Check made payable to Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter is enclosed.

I’d like to become a sustaining member for $5/month. ** or I’d like to become a sustaining member for $5/month. ** I’d like to be a sustaining member for $5/month. **

Bill to: * Money Order * Discover * Exp. date

Mail this completed form with your check or credit card information to Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, PO Box 58225, Albany, NY 12203

A copy of our latest financial report can be obtained by writing to Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter, PO Box 58225, Albany, NY 12203, or the NYS Attorney General.

BALLOT FOR FOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT LARGE DELEGATES

T he Sierra Club, the largest grass- roots environmental organization in the world, is proudly democratic and member driven. The Atlanta Delegation, along with the other Sierra Club Groups, selects the direct work of our Sierra Club. Five individuals have been nominated this year to run for four open at-large seats. Each can- didate’s statement includes informa- tion on how to reach them with ques- tions. More information about each candidate is available at https://atlanta- sierraclub.org/content/atlas-18-electrons.

Eligibility to vote:

• Members currently standing of the Atlantic Chapter for fall 2018

• Each member may fill out only one* ballot

• Joint members use both ballot col- umns

Voting procedures

• Each member may vote for four can- didates or fewer, but voting for more than four will void your ballot

• Ballots will be counted in late Jan- uary 2019

• Candidates who do not receive a bal- lot with their name on it will not be considered. Those not receiving a ballot, may request a replacement from an Atlantic Chapter office employee

• If you prefer to vote online, please check your email inbox in midlate December for a personalized, con- tinuous link to the 2018 Sierra Club Atlantic online ballot. It will be sent to all members in good stand- ing who have email addresses as of late December 1, 2018, and who have not opted out of receiving Sierra Club emails. If you prefer online vot- ing, your choices cannot be seen. Everyone voting online must follow the official online ballot. The online voting deadline is January 19, 2019.

• Mail-in Voting: Those who prefer to cast a mail-in paper bal- lot for your preferred candidates, please complete the form on the reverse of this page and mail it in before January 19, 2019

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• CANDIDATES

Carl Arnold, Kings County (Brooklyn)

I’ve worked on the hydraulic frac- ting issue since June 2008, after a first ballot and stamp and mail to Elections Commit- tee, Sierra Atlantic Chapter PO Box 58225, Albany NY 12203. Mail your ballots so that they are received on or before January 19, 2018.

Charles W. Harris, Duchess County (Poughkeepsie)

I’ve been involved with grassroots efforts regarding hydraulic frac- ting and other energy issues for over 30 years, including driving the CEP initiative, fighting to keep fracking out of our county and state, and fighting to keep gas and oil companies out of our backyard. I am a strong supporter of clean energy and renewable energy and have spoken extensively about this issue at forums and in the media. I am also a member of the New York State legislature and have been a strong advocate for clean energy and renewable energy. I am also a member of the New York State legislature and have been a strong advocate for clean energy and renewable energy. I am also a member of the New York State legislature and have been a strong advocate for clean energy and renewable energy. I am also a member of the New York State legislature and have been a strong advocate for clean energy and renewable energy.

I am running for this position because I believe that the Sierra Club needs someone with my experience and knowledge to help it continued on page 12

www.sas.org • www.nysa.org • www.sasindy.org • www.sasatlas.org
Ballot for the three executive committee at large delegates
continued from page 11

and currently chair the Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition, a group promotes sustainability, operates a number of renewable energy programs, as well as an annual Earth Fest, a zero waste initiative, and a local food co-operative. I serve on our County’s Environmental Management Council. In other words, while being a strong environmental advocate and have fought damaging projects and policies, I try to develop real solutions and have tried to “walk the talk” whenever possible.

cburger@frontiernet.net

Gale Pisha
Nanuet, Rockland County

As I complete my first term as an At-Large Delegate to the SCAC ExCom, I’d like the privilege of seeking another term. I’ve tabled a number of bills passed. Last year, we developed a list of members we can ask to contact their legislators. I helped the committee to write 20 bill memos regarding important legislation and encouraged Club members to meet with legislators in their districts.

Sierra Club staff and volunteers should work together with mutual respect, and bring the skills and passions of each together to effectively forward the Club’s goals, including quickly moving NYS to 100% renewable energy. To this end, I have helped coordinate the Chapter and staff efforts on the 100% Clean Energy for All campaign and contributed to a toolkit of resources for municipalities.

I would appreciate your support to continue this and additional work during a second term. Contact me at sorgale@verizon.net.

David Fischer
Onondaga County (Syracuse)

Having been a serious naturalist since childhood and now a grandfather as well as a father, nothing is more important to me than protecting the remarkable, highly evolved biosphere within which we coevolved – a biosphere now in a crisis that threatens its survival.

I’m a mycologist, a former outdoors/environment columnist for the Syracuse New Times, and author of two university press-published books about mushrooms. I’ve been intently studying climate change and energy, particularly from an evolutionary perspective, since 2009, and working on public outreach and education about climate change since 2013. I’m acutely interested in the vital connection between environmental justice and social justice.

I’m proud to be associated with the Sierra Club, which I regard as the most vital national environmental organization. I’ve worked with the Iroquois Group for almost five years, organizing and leading nature hikes, coordinating several buses for the 2014 People’s Climate March, arranging for educational programs, and working on a community outreach project regarding LED bulbs in low-income neighborhoods in Syracuse. I’ve tabled a number of events, represented the Club at press conferences and rallies, and assisted with SC political efforts.

I’ve participated at several Atlantic Chapter excom meetings as a delegate or alternate. I’d like the privilege of working more with this important organization at the chapter level. David W. Fischer

Vice chair, Iroquois Group
myecology@aol.com

Ecological Footprints and Planetary Boundaries — Educational Resources
continued from page 8

commemorates Earth Overshoot Day, which “marks the date when we (all of humanity) have used more from nature than our planet can renew in the entire year. In 2018, it fell on August. We are using 1.7 Earths. We use more ecological resources and services than nature can regenerate through overfishing, overharvesting forests and emitting more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere than ecosystems can absorb.” See: https://www.overshootday.org.


The 2009 film Home, the story of our human footprint on the planet. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xjQxENMKaeCU.


For additional resources on Ecological Footprints, planetary boundaries and one planet living, please see the electronic version of this article.