

Delaware Sierra News

A Newsletter about Environmental Matters Important to Delaware * March/April/May 2002



Chapter Appeals North Shores Groin Permit to Protect Park Beach

On Friday, February 15th the Delaware Chapter, represented by the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Law Center, acted to protect the beach at Cape Henlopen State Park by appealing a permit issued to the community of North Shores for the repair of a large stone groin. A "groin" is a long stone wall like jetty that extends into the water perpendicular to the beach to control erosion. The Sierra Club believes that the planned reconstruction of the groin will increase erosion at the badly eroding Cape Henlopen State Park beach, located to the north of the North Shores groin.

"Sierra Club members believe that the proposed reconstruction of the North Shores groin will harm and substantially change the shoreline. This erosion will deprive the citizens of Delaware of being able to enjoy the beach, including the wildlife and the unique World War II observation towers in Cape Henlopen State Park," said Sallie Callanen, chair of the Southern Delaware Group.

The North Shores stone groin extends into the Atlantic Ocean for the purpose of trapping littoral drift sand that moves north along the coast. The permit allows the groin to be made wider at its base, higher in elevation, and have pre-cast concrete blocks, measuring (10 ft x 4 ft x 2 ft), placed along the top surface of the groin.

"The Sierra Club is seeking to have the groin permit reversed or modified to lower the height of the groin, to require North Shores to monitor eroding in the park, and to require North Shores to pay for any damage caused by the reconstruction of the groin," says Lyman Welch, General Counsel of the Mid-Atlantic Environmental Law Center.

The Sierra Club's appeal seeks the following:

- Deletion of modifications to the North Shores groin that will result in increased erosion of the Cape Henlopen State Park beach.
- Require that North Shores monitor erosion on the Cape Henlopen State Park beach after rehabilitation of the North Shores groin.
- Explore options, such as notching the North Shores groin and/or lowering its elevation, to promote sand by-passing for the benefit of the seriously eroding Cape Henlopen State Park.
- Adding an indemnity clause to the North Shores groin permit.
- Ensure that DNREC's groin rehabilitation permit is based on sound scientific data.
- Requiring North Shores to post a bond to cover the cost of future groin removal operations if such action is deemed necessary as a result of damage to the Cape Henlopen State Park beach.

Photo by Steve Callanen

Looking north along the Delaware coast. Cape Henlopen State Park Beach is in the upper part of the photo as indicated by the two observation towers. The groin closest to the towers is located at Whiskey Beach. Just south of that is the North Shores groin.



2nd Annual Earth Day Trolley Square Clean-Up

Saturday, Saturday, April 20th / Noon-3 p.m.

Kelly's Logan House and the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club are co-hosting the second annual "**Big Bill**" **Earth Day Clean-up** and fundraiser at Trolley Square in Wilmington. After the clean-up, there will be a **free Earth Day concert** for all participants at the Logan House starting at 10 p.m. (See page 7 for more details)

My goals as Chapter Chair

By Matt Urban

When I first got involved with the Delaware Sierra Club, I had no specific aspirations of attaining any leadership position within the chapter, just enthusiasm and a broad commitment to the environment. Now, just a few short years after my introductory phone call to past chair Jim Steffens, I find myself following in his (and others) footsteps as chapter chair. Although it can be an intimidating role at first glance, I am excited to be participating at this level with such a wonderful group of people and very committed to our chapter and our state's environmental health.

Conservation focus notwithstanding, our chapter is ultimately a small business. As an existing small business owner and entrepreneur, I believe my business and organizational experience will bring a new perspective to the chapter. Rather than focusing my personal efforts on specific conservation efforts as past chairs have, I intend to have my efforts focus more on fundraising, organizational effectiveness, public outreach, membership growth, and general public awareness of the issues we face in this state and in the world. All of these efforts are intended to support the structure of our chapter, and will ultimately build foundational support for our current and future conservation campaigns.

Specifically, I've identified the following areas that I'll be focusing on in the upcoming year:

- Increase membership for the chapter, particularly in Southern Delaware areas.
- Create a sustainable fundraising program that creates a number of diverse and fun activities and events throughout the state.
- Organize a planning session for our chapter that looks into the next few years – who do we ultimately want to be, and what will our whole organization look and work like?
- Tied to the above somewhat - to separate activist roles from particular individual knowledge, so that if someone leaves the chapter, and/or a new activist appears, they will know exactly what's needed to make any position work.
- Gain more public awareness of Sierra Club in DE and our local conservation initiatives.
- Use our chapter resources to call public attention to the 'bigger picture' environ-

mental issues of national and international consequence.

Probably my heaviest focus over the next year will be in the area of fundraising. Last year our chapter applied for, and received, a chapter fundraising capacity grant. We were able to create our very successful and fun fall fundraising event last November with those funds. We plan not only to have that event yearly, but to also create other similar events throughout the state. We are applying for a second grant to support those efforts and to further assist the creation of a sustainable fundraising program will fuel our chapter's future growth.

Ultimately, my intention as chapter chair is to empower the chapter with a structure that supports the activists who are involved. So that during my tenure and then after I leave this position there will be a solid a structure that works for everyone, and that others can step into and build upon.

And also to have a lot of fun along the way!

Delaware Chapter and Southern Delaware Group Leaders

Chapter Office 1304 N. Rodney St. Wilmington, DE 19806
Shiray Shipley 302-425-4911
hours: Tue-Thurs 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Chapter Executive Committee

Matt Urban, chair	661-2050
Rich Anthony	645-1732
Dick Bewick	736-1670
Jay Cooperson	571-0660
Debbie Heaton	378-8501
Chris McEvilly	656-8858
Terri Tipping, treas.	368-1452
Boyd White	335-1323

Chapter Appointed Officers

Cons. Debbie Heaton	378-8501
Land Use Jim Steffens	239-9601
Litigation Carl Solberg	492-1225
Membership Al Denio	455-0389
Outings Dan Soeder	284-2613
Trans. Bob Bennett	731-4524

Southern Delaware Group Excom*

Sallie Callanen, chair	539-0635
Pete Okie	856-2728
Rich Anthony	645-1732
Yuki Usuki, vice chair	436-4042

SDG Appointed Officers

Cons. Terri Usuki	436-4042
Land use. Rich Anthony	645-1732
Legal Mike Lamb	539-1008
Membership Claudia Alesi	
Secretary Carrie Bennett	

Visit us on the web:

www.delaware.sierraclub.org



Project WILD has been receiving nominations for listing. Get your favorite place listed and join us at the upcoming

committee meeting on Friday, March 8 at 7:00 p.m. to help us review submissions and plan. We will meet at Ron Zink's house at 28 Winged Foot Rd., Dover. If you are curious about what has been listed visit the Chapter web site for periodic updates. (Call Ron at 735-8996 for directions.)

The **Delaware Sierra News** is published five times a year by the Delaware Chapter of the Sierra Club. This publication is written and produced entirely by volunteers. If you would like to help with its publication, please contact the editor (302-378-8501). The deadline for materials for the next issue is **May 1, 2002**. We reserve the right to edit materials submitted for publication. Materials and Letters to the Editor can be sent to: debbie.heaton@sierraclub.org. Ideas expressed in the *Delaware Sierra News* are those of the columnists and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Sierra Club. While effort is made to check for accuracy, time constraints and limited all-volunteer staff do not allow for complete data corroboration.

Editors: Debbie Heaton, Mike Casale, Jamie Alesi, Jim Steffens, and Jean Bauer. Contributing writers as noted. This newsletter was printed on recycled/post consumer paper with soy based ink by the Dover Post Company, Dover, Delaware.



Two Votes for the Wellstone Amendment

Although both of Delaware's senators voted to pass the Wellstone amendment, this proposed change to the Farm Bill was defeated by a vote of 44-52. The amendment would have introduced major improvements concerning animal waste management.

Manure runoff from fields and leaky storage pits is a major source of water pollution. The House bill would provide billions of dollars in federal tax subsidies to large, industrial-scale livestock operations controlled by major corporations. In contrast, the Wellstone amendment to the Senate version would have dedicated more money to smaller, family-sized livestock farmers, to help them stop pollution by building manure management systems.

Thanks to everyone who worked for passage of this amendment. Especially, thanks to Delaware's senators for their responsible votes. If you have not already done so, please take a moment to call or write Senator Biden and Senator Carper.

Contact information: **Senator Biden:** E-mail: senator@biden.senate.gov, phone: 678-9483 and 424-8090; fax: 424-8098; address: 24 N. W. Front Street, Milford 19963. **Senator Carper:** E-mail: go to 'www.senate.gov' then go to 'Delaware,' then go to 'Carper'; phone: 674-3308; address: 2215 Federal Building, 300 S. New Street, Dover 19904.

Organized Labor Endorses Smart Growth

The AFL-CIO passed its first-ever resolution on urban sprawl and smart growth in December at its national convention in Las Vegas. The resolution links sprawl to many ills harming working families, reminds us all that some unions have been doing things for decades that are now called "smart growth," and authorizes the federation's leadership to weigh in on the rapidly-emerging smart growth debate.

The Sierra Club's National Challenge to Sprawl Campaign works to stop sprawl by promoting transportation reform, land use planning, open space protection and community revitalization.

Many of these smart growth solutions are consistent with good labor practices. For more information and to view a copy of the resolution go to www.goodjobsfirst.org. For more information about the Sierra Club's Challenge to Sprawl Campaign go to www.sierraclub.org/sprawl/.

2 N D A N N U A L

Earth Day Trolley Square Clean-Up

Saturday, April 20th - Noon -3 p.m.

Kelly's Logan House and the Delaware Chapter are co-hosting the "**Big Bill**" **Earth Day Clean-up** and fundraiser at Trolley Square in Wilmington. Big Bill was a much-beloved bartender at Logan House who died unexpectedly in a falling accident. Bill was always ready to help out anyone in need, so in his memory, we are going to give something back to the community by cleaning up Trolley Square. We will again work with the local business community and neighbors to clear public areas of trash and debris. We will meet at the Logan House at noon and teams will be assigned sections of the neighborhood to clean. Trash bags, hand soap and food will be provided.

After the clean-up, there will be a **free Earth Day concert** for all participants at the Logan House starting at 10 p.m. Non-participants will be asked to donate \$5 for the concert, with the proceeds to be split between the Big Bill Foundation (for troubled youths) and Sierra Club. If you are interested in helping with the logistics, pre-planning, and scouting areas for cleaning, please contact Matt Urban 302-475-9880 *17, home: 302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobiusnm.com or Rob Mayer at the Logan House.

The chapter's fundraising mailing will be arriving in your mailbox shortly. Please take a moment to consider donating your time and/or a making a contribution to the Sierra Club in Delaware!



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 Street, 2nd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105 (415) 977-5639 or e-mail: planned.giving@sierraclub.org

Near & Far: Conservation Update and News

by Debbie Heaton,
Chapter
Conservation Chair

At February's conservation committee meeting and at the gathering of the newsletter group, suggestions were made about having a conservation activity update on the actions taken by volunteers with the Sierra Club here in Delaware. It turns out that there is much going on quietly and persistently across the state that never gets spoken about, nor do we hear where help is needed.

So, below is the first of what I hope will be one of many updates designed to inform you, our members, of the depth and range of our activities. We hope that you will enjoy this column and even more importantly consider helping your fellow members with their work. All sorts of skills are needed: from scientific know-how to data base management, from file reviewers to meeting attenders. We only have room for a "cliff notes" version of the story behind each activity, so please feel free to contact the person listed to find out more.

National Energy Plan and protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Shiray Shipley has been working with a number of Sierrans, as well as other local area groups. Meetings have been held with Senator Carper. We have been trying to schedule one with Senator Biden. You received action alerts requesting letter writing and there have even been ads in the newspaper and on the radio. The Senate vote on the energy bill will determine the health of the Arctic National Wildlife refuge as well as whether conservation and renewables will have a role in our national energy strategy. We are down to the deadline here. The Senate vote is believed to be on the February Senate schedule.

Assawoman Canal You might remember that Sierra Club pointed out that the construction permit expired last August and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) subsequently determined that a new permit was necessary. The DNREC has been working on the preparation of a new application. We expect this to heat up soon. Contact Debbie Heaton 302-378-8501.

The North Shores Groin See the article on page one. A number of members from the Southern Delaware Group (SDG) have been preparing for this over the last couple years. More work will be required to prepare for the

appeal. Contact Sallie Callanen at 302-539-0635.

Land Use. Members are active in all three counties participating in hearings, commenting on draft ordinances and land use management plans. Chris McEvelly put together lengthy comments on the New Castle Comprehensive Plan. Chris McEvelly email: mcevelly@ix.netcom.com

And It's All Happening in Kent County Kent County governmental bodies are in the midst of approving the new comprehensive plan, updating the subdivision ordinances, addressing the coastal zone of Kent County, and considering protective overlays for the St. Jones and Silver Lake watersheds, among other things. To lend a hand during these exciting times, call or write Boyd White, 335-1323, or E-mail him at boraxo@prodigy.net.

Sussex members are following the process as new developments are considered and approved. They are also keeping an eye on SR1 and what will happen to it in the near future. Sallie Callanen 302-539-0635.

On the state level Rich Anthony is representing the Club on the *Governor's Livable Delaware Advisory Council*. Others are participating on the subcommittees that advise this group. This is a big undertaking and support is welcome! One of their products will be new legislation to be introduced this session in the General Assembly. Rich Anthony email r_h_anthony@law.com

Coastal Zone We now have regulations and there have been several applications each year for permits from industries located in this sensitive area. The permit for Printpak received a lot of notice recently which Sierra Club wasn't able to comment due to the workload. Chloramone has an incomplete application for a permit into DNREC and BOC Group will most likely be preparing an application soon. Both permits will involve understanding of some chemical processes and we have started to identify some people with expertise to help. If you would like to contribute some know-how contact Debbie Heaton 302-378-8501.

NPDES permits (National Pollution Discharge Elimination System) These permits are required by all entities that send their waste out into streams or rivers through a pipe or outfall. They are required to reapply for a permit every five

years and the Club has been following to make sure that the TMDLs are being implemented through these reissued permits. Ten to twenty of these permits seemed to be considered each year and the staff at DNREC is pleased when Delawareans show an interest in the process. We are looking for people who want to help review the files and contribute comments based on their findings. Contact Debbie Heaton.

Motiva This seems to be the topic of conversation if you mention that you are involved with the environment anywhere in Delaware. The problems there are not yet settled as witnessed by more violations as noticed on the DNREC web site. Al Denio, Ken Mulholland and Jim Steffens testified at a January hearing on an air permit that Motiva requested modified. Al will be monitoring Motiva air permits and is looking for some others to help him out. Al Denio 455-0389. The Chapter is also considering participating in Community Advisory Committee that Motiva is seeking to set-up. You will undoubtedly hear more about this in the near future.

Chicken Manure Carl Solberg has been our representative on the Nutrient Management Commission over the last several years. He has been attending both commission and committee meetings as his work schedule permits. Others of us have been trying to help as the environmental

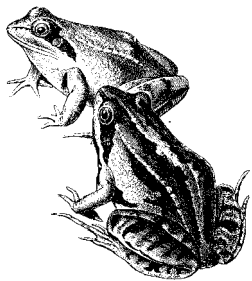
voice is vastly under-represented at these discussions. We need more help covering the committee meetings and being prepped to comment. Curious? Call Debbie Heaton.

Delaware River Main Channel Deepening

The DNREC Subaqueous Land permit hearing was held in December. Jim Steffens testified for the chapter and is currently waiting for the opportunity to review the hearing record and to review the answers to questions posed there. Jim 302-239-9601

Alert list About 100 of our members are listed on our Chapter alert list to receive updates and special requests for timely action (phone calls, letters, etc) on Delaware issues. Would you like to be added to the list? About four notices are sent out in the average month via email using a blindcopied list. Contact Shiray Shipley at the chapter office 492-1225 to be added.

If you didn't see your pet issue listed above it could be that we are working on it, but it didn't make the list or maybe that we don't have anyone to address it. We would be happy to learn of your concerns and to offer some form of help. Contact Debbie Heaton, conservation chair at 378-8501.



Saving Seaslugs at the Seashore

As this newsletter was going to press we received a public notice issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which provides an evaluation of alternative sand sources for the Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project. The notice indicates that the preferred alternative is to be taken from sites other than the original which is known as Hen and Chicken Shoals. Since 1996 the Sierra Club has argued that the Corps and the State of Delaware should not dredge Hen and Chicken shoals citing the negative impacts on coastal geology, fisheries and essential fish habitat especially nursery and juvenile habitat. The shoals in question are known as relic shoals formed during the last glacial movements and possibly irreplaceable. Joining the Club in questioning this practice have been countless individuals, the commercial and recreational fisher's, civic groups, the National Marine Fisheries Services Habitat and Highly Migratory Divisions and the Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Council and many conservation organizations. From this notice it appears the Corps of Engineers and the

State have heard us and are moving off of the shoals. Normally this would be a cause for celebration but with the proposed changes and additions cited in this notice we have opted to engage the precautionary principle and begin our investigations before announcing our thoughts.

The new alternative cites two new sand source sites off the Atlantic coast of Delaware, one of which is in close proximity to the Indian River Inlet. The third site includes sands from the lower Delaware Bay compliments of the proposed Delaware River and Bay deepening project. In addition to the alternatives, the City of Rehoboth Beach is asking the federal government to expand their ocean outfalls. They want to combine and extend their ten remaining outfalls beyond the currently authorized project width. DNREC appears to be the go between for the funding by seeking a federal financial credit. The extension of the outfalls was not evaluated in earlier environmental reviews so this new project is being shoehorned into an existing one.

For more information on how you can get involved please contact Debbie Heaton.

Sierra Club Delaware Chapter Outings: Spring, 2002

The Delaware Chapter has begun participation in the Sierra Club's "One Club" program, which seeks to link outings activities with conservation issues. We have applied for a small grant from National to help facilitate this, and have started to move forward with it this spring. We will still do outings of local interest, and outings just for fun, but every other month or so, expect to see an outing activity linked to a local or regional conservation issue. We are especially interested in running outings to places in Delaware that are proposed for entry into the Project WILD inventory of remaining wilderness places in the state. Suggestions include a paddle trip down the Nanticoke from Laurel to just over the MD state line, because this is supposed to be the wildest and most undeveloped stretch of this river, and a trip down the Murderkill from Frederica to Bowers Beach to look at land preservation issues and the freshwater/saltwater marshes.

In late April, we have a paddle trip planned through the Assawoman Canal, combined with a hike around Gordon's Pond and the beach groin at North Shores. These are three coastal zone conservation issues that have been on our radar screen for awhile. Many of our members have visited these sites, but many more have not. This is a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with the Delaware Chapter's conservation program over a fun, relaxing weekend. Michael D'Amico, the Sierra Club representative for the Atlantic Coast Ecoregion, has been working on setting up similar

outings along the Chesapeake Bay, Delmarva Coastal Bays and the lower Delaware Bay this coming summer in partnership with other Club entities in NJ, MD and VA. He is currently discussing a NJ trip on the Maurice River in May to view horseshoe crabs, and a VA trip to Fisherman's Island in June or July. Your input and suggestions for conservation issues and possible outings are welcomed. Please contact Michael at 302-644-0627 (e-mail: mike.damico@sierraclub.org), Debbie Heaton, chapter conservation chair, at 302-378-8501 (e-mail: debbie.heaton@sierraclub.org) or Dan Soeder, chapter outings chair, at 302-284-2613 (e-mail: DEhiker2@cs.com) for more information.

With warmer weather coming soon, ideas for future outings include a "Logan House" type social event in Kent County, some outings designed expressly for singles, additional joint outings with other Delaware nature and environmental groups, a re-run of the Prime Hook Creek paddle with the Fish & Wildlife Refuge Officers, a visit to some of Delaware's numerous Superfund sites, an outing to Bike New York in May (if they run it this year), and perhaps another long-distance outing to the mountains and canyonlands of the west. As always, your ideas, suggestions and offers of help are welcomed. We still need outings leaders! If you are going to be out enjoying nature anyway, why not take your friends from the Sierra Club along? Please consider it. *I'll see you outside!* - Dan

Logan House

Socials: March 21, April 18, and May 16, 6-9 p.m., Kelly's Logan House, Trolley Square, Wilmington, DE. Join the outings committee for drink and food specials, and meet new members, old members and potential members. Contact Matt Urban for information (302-661-2050, e-mail: Matt@mobius-nm.com)

Tuesday, March 19, 2002, 7-9 p.m.: Sierra Club Information Meeting: "**Patagonia**" at the Newark United Methodist Church, Main Street, Newark, DE. Leader: Jim Steffens (302-239-9601, e-mail: jjsteff@mag-page.com). Join Jim for a presentation on his recent trip to Patagonia. He will discuss the natural beauty of the land, and the environmental issues resulting from its exploitation.

Wednesday, April 10 through Sunday, April 14, 2002: **Delmarva Stargazers Star Party.** Location: Tuckahoe State Park (near Queen Anne), MD. Leader: Ron Zink (302-735-8996, e-mail: ron_z_19904@yahoo.com). Register for 2 to all 5 nights of this annual amateur astronomy festival at the Delmarva Stargazers dark-skies observing site. Fees are quite reasonable and include camping spaces. You don't need a telescope to attend; this is the kind of party where people who are really into this hobby bring out their big telescopes to show off and have everyone look through. There will be food, coffee, guest speakers on topics related to astronomy, space exploration and home telescope building, and swap tables to get those all-important telescope parts. If you've never been to a star party before, it is a fun and awesome experience. Contact Ron or visit the web site at <http://www.delmarvastargazers.org>. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!

Saturday, April 20 through Sunday, April 21, 2002: **Coastal Zone Conservation Issues.** Location: Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, DE. Leader: Dan Soeder -

302-284-2613 (e-mail: DEhiker2@cs.com)

The Sierra Club's Wild Atlantic Project is teaming up with the Delaware Chapter's outing project to enlist members to come and enjoy the lure of the outdoors while learning more about local conservation issues that have implications beyond our borders. In our first of a series of outings we are going to lead two trips over the weekend of April 20-21, 2002 at the beach. You are welcome to join us during any part of the journey. On Saturday morning we will be doing a paddling tour of the Assawoman Canal, and that evening host a potluck dinner around a campfire in Cape Henlopen State Park. On Sunday we will do a walking tour around Gordon's Pond and the southern side of Cape Henlopen State Park to discuss the planned bicycle trail and the proposed groin expansion between the North Shores beach and Whiskey Beach in the state park. The back-up dates for this outing are May 4-5. Please make reservations with Michael D'Amico or through Shiray Shipley in the Chapter office. This is important if you will be camping in the park, as we need to reserve enough spaces, or if you require a rental kayak for the Assawoman Canal paddle. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!

Saturday, April 27, 2002: Joint outing with the Delaware Natural History Society on "**Control of Phragmites and mosquitoes**" DNHS Contact: Al Matlack (302-239-5383), Sierra Contact: Dan Soeder (302-284-2613, e-mail DEhiker2@cs.com). Few details are available at this time, except to say that Tom Moran

How Green is Your Mansion?

Edited, from the Bay Chapter *Yodeler*.

Part one is featured here. To see part two visit the chapter web site at www.delaware.sierraclub.org



You conserve and recycle, but does the air inside your own home live up to your own environmental standard? Environmental-building consultant David Kibbey, a “green builder,” helps us find and eliminate toxic substances in our indoor air. Fortunately, many of the remedies are simple and inexpensive, but some are not. The alternative, however, is to play with poison.

The Nose Knows

Not all toxic substances have an odor, but many do. If you smell the following odors when you walk in the front door, then you have some work to do: mustiness, smoke, paint, that dirty sock smell, chlorine or ozone, pesticides, gasoline or oil, rubber, or perfume or strong fragrances. All of these scents can indicate a high level of toxicity in your home. Here are some ideas on eliminating the causes and improving your indoor atmosphere.

To control mold, eliminate the source of moisture, remove damaged items and decontaminate the area. Use one part household chlorine bleach diluted in 10 parts water, or use 3% hydrogen peroxide. Use trenches to divert outdoor standing water. Place drainage trays under washing machines and water heaters. Prevent condensation on windows by using exhaust fans for bathrooms, laundries, and kitchen ranges. Always keep a window cracked open while operating an exhaust fan. Keep moisture away from the house by covering wet soil with 6 mil or heavier polyethylene sheeting, overlapped at the seams by at least 12 inches and tightly fitted around pipes, posts, or other penetrations. Buy an inexpensive

hygrometer to monitor relative humidity indoors. Ideal RH is between 40% and 60%. If the problem persists, call a qualified heating and ventilating contractor. If you have a flood, call in a remediation contractor immediately.

If you smell smoke, be warned that combustion products are extremely dangerous. Be sure the flue of your fireplace or wood-stove has enough draft, and have it cleaned regularly. Start a wood fire as hot as possible to get the upward draft flowing before damping down the fire. When burning wood without sealed combustion-air intake, crack a window open for makeup air to prevent backdrafting of carbon monoxide and other poisonous combustion gases. Switch to burning natural gas in sealed combustion burners if possible. Use the exhaust hood on your kitchen range. If you burn candles, use unscented beeswax-based ones; avoid paraffin and scents, and lamp oil with added fragrance. Avoid placing anything on top of floor furnaces. Change furnace filters more often than manufacturers' recommendations.

If you use standard high-VOC paints or coatings or installed new synthetic carpeting, ventilate the affected area. If the odor persists, consider painting over the offending surfaces with an environmental sealant paint or a coating. Consider using one of the many available zero-VOC low-odor paints and coatings. Consider trading carpet for natural-fiber rugs. Use craft or art glues, paints, and cleaners that are water-based and solvent-free. Use an exhaust fan and an open window for ventilation, or a portable filter. *(end part one)*

Outings

Continued from page 6

will lead us on a tour of state and county pest control facilities to learn the methods utilized for controlling the exotic marsh plant Phragmites, and the much less exotic mosquito. Contact Al or Dan to reserve and to obtain more details about the outing.

Sunday, May 5, 2002: **Bike New York: The Great 5 Boro Bike Tour**. Leader: Dan Soeder (302-284-2613, e-mail DEhiker2@cs.com). Cost: \$25 entrance fee. This is an annual bicycle ride in New York City to benefit brain injury research. Helmets are absolutely required! The ride begins in lower Manhattan, goes through Central Park, over to the Bronx, back to Manhattan, along the East River and then through Brooklyn and Queens. It finishes on Staten Island with a festival after crossing the Verazzano Narrows Bridge. This is a tremendous way to see New York City. Streets are closed off for the bicyclists, and support is provided with rest stops, food, water and mechanical help. The length of the ride is about 40 miles (at an easy pace over mostly level

ground), and it takes 6 to 8 hours. Last year, there were 34,000 participants. If you are interested in participating, please contact Dan for information and updates.

Saturday, May 11, 2002: Location-TBD: **Lower Delaware Bay, NJ**. Leader: Michael D'Amico (302-644-0627, e-mail: mike.damico@sierraclub.org). The Sierra Club's Wild Atlantic Project is sponsoring an outing with our neighboring chapter in New Jersey to view spawning horseshoe crabs and hold a discussion on the merits of dredging the lower Delaware Bay for commerce and sources of sand for beach replenishment. This is breeding season for the crabs, and the females come onto the beach at high tide to lay eggs in great numbers. It is a fascinating sight. This outing was still in the early planning stages at the time the newsletter went to press, so please contact Michael for details and possible date changes if you are interested in participating. Pre-registration is strongly encouraged!

Kent County Group Meeting

Southern Delaware Group Executive Comm. Meeting

April 17th, at 7:00 p.m. At the Purnell's. Contact Sallie (539-0635) about the agenda and Til (945-1317) for directions.

Chapter Conservation Committee Meeting

April 16, at 7:00 p.m. Wesley Methodist Church (Educational Building) at Loockerman and State Streets, Dover. Contact Debbie at 302-378-8501 to put an item on the agenda or for information.

Chapter Executive Comm. Meeting

March 12 at Wesley Methodist Church, Dover and May 14 at 7:00 p.m. (place to be determined). Call Matt Urban 302-239-9601 to put an item on the agenda or for information.

Sunday, April 7, 1 - 4 p.m., at the Bauer's, 75 Vining Run, Camden. If you're concerned about the situation in Kent County or want to get together with like-minded people – this is the meeting for you!

The Kent County Group (KCG) met over a year ago to discuss sprawl, and at this second meeting, we anticipate setting up a structure to focus on Kent County issues. Among other things, we'll discuss the ongoing work – and the progress being made – on sprawl. We'll consider forming a committee to review state and federal permits pertinent to Kent County, work on permit alerts and will organize some local social activities. It's not required for admission, but if you care to, bring an hors d'oeuvres. We'll snack together while we consider our next steps. If you plan to attend, call Jean or Bob at 698-1601 or E-mail bauerbj2@prodigy.net.

Delaware Chapter Change of Address Form

Name _____

New Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Old Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Membership # (see label below) _____

Please send this coupon to **Sierra Club**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80321-2968.

Join today—Celebrate 100 years of Sierra Club Outings!



New Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club
 MasterCard Visa Exp. Date ____ / ____

Cardholder name _____

Card number _____

Categories	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
Regular	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 (per person)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and for \$1.00 for your chapter newsletter. Dues are not tax deductible. Mail to: **Sierra Club**, P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO 80322-2968

Frip No. F94QW5800-1

See page 6 for details!

Paddle the Canal

Delaware Chapter
 402 Goldspring Run, Newark, DE 19711



NON-PROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 WILMINGTON, DE
 PERMIT NO. 740