



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

The Sierra Club Activist Resource PLANET

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September 2003 ■ VOL. 10, NO. 6



Where the WMDs Are—in Alabama: Club activists and local residents protest the Army's plan to incinerate chemical weapons at its Anniston arms depot, below. Above, John McCown, Club environmental justice organizer, speaks out at a rally just outside the depot gate.

Army Burns, Club Fumes

BY TOM VALTIN

As the bus pulled up to the gates of the Anniston Army depot in northeast Alabama, half a dozen police cars were already waiting for us, along with a bevy of reporters from regional newspapers and network television affiliates. Three armed troopers stood in the parking lot, hands on hips, reflector shades gleaming; three more barred the entrance to the depot, arms folded across their chests.

Sierra Club activist Rufus Kinney, a member of the Anniston-based Families Concerned about Nerve Gas Incineration and a professor at nearby Jacksonville State University, stood at the front of the jam-packed bus and commandeered the microphone. "Let me get off first and talk to the officers," he said. "I'll let them know this will be a non-violent protest; we don't want anyone ending up in jail. I'll find out where we can assemble, and if there's a line past which we can't go. Then I'll give the signal for you to come out."

The occasion was a June 21 Sierra Club rally in west Anniston, a mostly poor and African American community that abuts the Army depot, where the Army wants to fire up a chemical weapons incinerator to destroy the 2,254 tons of outdated but deadly chemical munitions currently stored there. The Sierra Club, as

Despite safe and proven alternatives, Pentagon to burn chemical weapons

part of a coalition of environmental justice and citizens' groups and concerned Anniston residents, is pushing for an alternative method called neutralization that has been shown to be both safer and more effective than incineration. The Army is already committed to using this method at its arms depots in Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, and Maryland.

When Kinney gave the sign, we filed out of the bus. Several additional carloads of locals and Club activists had pulled up, and they now joined the busload of 50 or so marchers, chanting "Incineration, no! Neutralization, yes!" One protester was dressed as the grim reaper, replete with sickle and gas mask, and marchers carried signs and banners with messages like, "Environmental justice for all" and "Incineration hurts children and other living things." One little girl carried a sign that read, "Children should grow, not glow."

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Slamming Bush's Window

Administration chisels away at environmental protections—piece by piece, week by week.

BY JOHN BYRNE BARRY

Word on the street is that come early next year, President Bush will stop dismantling 30 years of environmental protection and, presto, become a compassionate conservative. Until oh, about Wednesday, November 3.

That gives him a window of another six to nine months to wreak havoc.

"President Bush does not want to launch any attacks on the Clean Air Act next summer," says Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. "Voters won't have time to forget."

Of course, between now and then, the Sierra Club is doing its best to shine the spotlight on Bush administration misdeeds

from THE editor

and make sure that American citizens don't get amnesia next fall.

The attacks on the environment have already been coming fast and furious, many announced on Friday afternoons when they attract the least amount of media attention. (For a full list, go to www.sierraclub.org/wwatch.) Even if nothing else happened, this administration would still qualify as the biggest environmental threat since rivers burned and skies were choked by industrial pollution 30-plus years ago.

Pope highlights three of the administration's most dangerous moves:

"They want to allow old power plants, old refineries, and old factories to operate indefinitely without cleaning up their pollution and they call that 'Clear Skies.' They want taxpayers, not polluters, to pay for cleanup of toxic dumps and they don't want to clean up most of them. And they want to subsidize timber companies to cut down fire-resistant big trees, but they won't fund programs that actually protect communities from fire by cleaning up

brush and slash near where people live."

Some of the Bush administration's anti-environmental actions are fait accomplis—like the yanking of \$34 million in promised funding for the United Nations Family Planning Agency. But most are not and can still be stopped or derailed.

The executive branch can't do all the damage by itself. The Republican-controlled Congress has succeeded—so far—in squashing any positive environmental measures, like raising fuel economy, but it is not so dominant that it can ram through the bad stuff. The Democratic minority in the Senate, for example, has filibustered four times to stymie the confirmation of D.C. District Court nominee Miguel Estrada. (For more on why the Club is opposing Bush's judicial nominees, see "Gaveling the Courts," p. 6.)

To be sure, the administration has already cut a wide swath through our environmental protections. It weakened the Clinton administration's Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which protected 58.5 million acres of national forests from road-building and logging, by giving governors a loophole to "seek relief for exceptional circumstances." The EPA gave mining companies the go-ahead to blast the tops off mountains, then dump the waste into streams. The Bush administration has also exempted small streams and wetlands from Clean Water Act protection.

But even the administrative actions,

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Oh No!

Senate Passes Failed Energy Bill from Last Congress

In a last minute deal, the Senate resurrected and passed the energy bill from the last Congress—a bill that gives billions of dollars in subsidies to the coal, oil, and nuclear industries; increases the nation's dependence on oil; includes virtually no progress on renewable energy; and eliminates safeguards that protect consumers from Enron-like manipulations.

SEE "Energy Madness," P. 6



MARGARET WADE

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'Not above the Law'

Environmental Law Program takes on Cheney while expanding its scope and capacity

BY LI MIAO

On July 10, the Sierra Club's Environmental Law Program (ELP) successfully thwarted Vice President Dick Cheney's effort to keep the public in the dark about the energy industry's influence on the Bush administration's 2001 Energy Plan.

After a lower court ruled that the White House must produce records detailing its meetings with energy executives and lobbyists, Cheney appealed the matter to the D.C. Circuit Court. He lost. According to Sierra Club attorney Sanjay Narayan, the decision demonstrates that the administration is "not above the law."

Though the Club must still fight this case in the U.S. District Court, and contend with the possible assertion of "executive privilege" by the Cheney team, it marks a satisfying success for the expanding law program.

Now able to draw on a staff of ten attorneys, the law program is shining an unwelcome spotlight on administration maneuvers to gut air and water protections, leave communities at risk from toxic waste sites and other pollution, allow massive industrial-scale feedlots to pollute the water and air, open our most treasured wild places to logging and mining, and allow global warming to continue unchecked. The law program is also litigating to challenge sprawl and uphold environmental justice.

Despite the law program's expansion, there are many potential lawsuits and not enough lawyers, so the Club tries to bring similar suits in multiple states. For example, the Club has filed more than a dozen lawsuits challenging industrial-scale feedlots in Michigan, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Iowa, and California. These multi-state campaigns necessarily involve substantial collaboration with local activists, national campaign leaders, and other organizations. "Instead of knights on white horses riding in at the end of the day, we work at the front end with communities to lend legal capability to their campaigns," says Pat Gallagher, director of the Environmental Law Program. "We think of ourselves as 'lawyer-organizers' who look beyond the courthouse doors at how our suits can help communities and provide strategic, on-the-ground environmental protection."

The law program's expansion has allowed the Club to provide legal support and collaboration on key regional issues, like challenging Pacific Lumber's plan to log the forests surrounding California's Headwaters Forest. According to Deputy Legal Director Alex Levinson, "For the first time, we have the capacity to assist strategically with lawsuits handled by outside counsel but which involve critical priorities for the Club."

Other regional actions include a suit to stop an Illinois ethanol factory from polluting the Illinois River, a suit in Idaho to stop logging in roadless areas of the Lolo National Forest, and a challenge to a development in New Jersey that would discharge large quantities of warm water into the Pequannock River.

The suit that Club lawyers have filed against Cheney seeks to compel full disclosure from the White House about what happened behind closed doors when a parade of energy CEOs from Enron and other extractive industries helped craft the administration's energy policy. The Cheney task force released its plan in May 2001, calling for a host of dig-and-drill



Sanjay Narayan

actions favorable to the fossil fuel industry.

Last October, District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan ordered the White House to disclose "unprivileged" documents to the Sierra Club. Rather than comply, the administration made an emergency appeal to the D.C. Court of Appeals, where one of the judges initially remarked to the Cheney team, "You have no case." The judge also stated that the ad-

ministration was ignoring the law by asking the appeals court for intervention.

Narayan clarifies the issue of access to the documents. "If Vice President Cheney wants to invite Ken Lay and every other energy CEO in America into his office to write the national energy policy, the law allows him to do so, but only if he does so in the light of day. That way the rest of us who are uninvited aren't left out of our democracy."

The administration may yet try to hide behind "executive privilege" or slip through another legal loophole. Narayan says that executive privilege is an ill-defined concept that does not appear in the Constitution and is generally considered to apply only under narrow circumstances, such as cases concerning national security. Hiding behind it, he says, could backfire by causing a public outcry.

In the Headwaters case, the Sierra Club and its co-plaintiff, the Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC), ran into a Perry-Mason-like surprise after filing suit. The Headwaters controversy was ostensibly settled in 1999, when the federal and state governments paid \$480 million to purchase the 7,500-acre Headwaters forest and two smaller groves. In return, the Pacific Lumber Company was required to develop a plan for responsible logging on its remaining 211,000 acres. But Pacific Lumber has been steadily logging for the past four years—from 1999 through 2003—without ever submitting the required conservation plan. The logging was

authorized under permits issued by the state of California.

"The California Department of Forestry never enforced the law," says Berkeley attorney Sharon Duggan, who has worked on the case for years on behalf of the environmental groups. Club lawyers helped Duggan recently by assisting with legal responses and research at a crucial point in the case.

In May, Duggan took the Headwaters case to trial in Eureka, California, where a state judge ruled against Pacific Lumber and the California forestry agencies. "It's unfortunate that it took a lawsuit by EPIC and the Sierra Club to protect these redwood forests," says Gallagher. "The logging company once again demonstrated a pattern of caring more about its bottom line than protecting the forests and wildlife and surrounding communities, and the state cop on the beat was nowhere to be seen."

"This is very complicated litigation, and the law program lawyers pitched in to help us when it was most needed," says local activist Kathy Bailey, who until last year served for a decade as the forest conservation chair for Sierra Club California. Bailey also notes, "Almost every single person who got involved in protecting these forests did so because something happened in our backyards that got our attention."

"The public got the Headwaters," says Duggan, "but in exchange, a private company received half a billion dollars and a license to log old-growth redwoods."

Law program staff attorney Aaron Isherwood notes how harmful Pacific Lumber's practices have been for local communities. "The company's logging pace is unsustainable and in short time, once the trees are gone, will undermine the local economy. Community businesses that rely on tourism, fishing, and hiking strongly support protection of these forests."

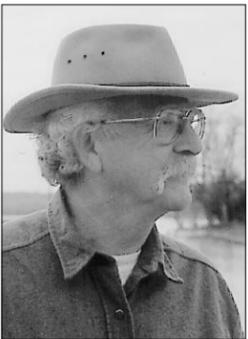
"We bring cases on behalf of the Sierra Club that protect communities at risk of being left behind," says Pat Gallagher, "They are suffering from environmental problems that typically have readily-available solutions—and our suits highlight the refusal of the Bush Administration, Congress, or a hostile state government to use these solutions."

Feds Say Let the States Do It...

Deregulation Taking Hold in State Capitols

BY KEN MIDKIFF

What entity has been attempting (and in some cases, succeeding) in (1) preventing citizen-gathered data from being used by state and federal environmental agencies, (2) preventing counties from adopting strict rules limiting pollution from concentrated animal feeding operations, (3) blocking funds for organic producers, (4) taking away the public's right to have input into water allocations, and (5) cutting budgets for environmental law enforcement?



Ken Midkiff

If you guessed the Bush administration, you're wrong. While, no doubt, some of these measures would meet with the approval of Dubya, there are no presidential fin-

gerprints on any of these rollbacks. Rather, these are the misbegotten brainchildren of states' legislatures. (Correct answers: the general assemblies in (1) Texas; (2) Florida, Texas, Missouri, other states; (3) Minnesota; (4) Idaho; and (5) Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, and many other states.)

While the primary focus of the national Sierra Club and other groups has been on the shenanigans of the U.S. Congress and the president, much of the day-to-day protection of air, land, and water is assigned to state governments, especially enforcement. If, however, state agencies—such as the Texas Council on Environmental Quality or the Idaho Division of Water Resources—are prevented from doing their jobs by retrograde state laws, then the Bush administration's stated goal of being more "industry-friendly" will have been accomplished without the Congress or the White House having to lift a finger.

Of course, we have to keep an eye on Washington; after all, the federal government has much to say about

[MORE ON P. 3]

frontburner

America Votes

The Sierra Club announced in July that it is joining forces with several of America's other prominent grassroots groups to register, educate, and mobilize the public for the 2004 elections. The groups are linking arms under the banner of America Votes, a non-partisan political organization that will capitalize on the groups' strong strategic abilities and large membership bases to reach out to voters on issues that they care about and encourage greater voter participation. For more about America Votes, go to www.sierraclub.org/pressroom.

Auto Technology Shifts into Reverse

Fresh off the assembly line in Detroit, the Hummer 2 is the SUV that begs the question: miles-per-gallon or gallons-per-mile? To parody these gas-guzzling behemoths, and educate consumers about the damage they cause to the environment, the Club launched www.HummerDinger.com in late July. The site immediately attracted attention from newspapers around the country, and drew so many Web-surfers, it crashed the Club's site for the first time ever. Humor, it seems, may be the most energy-efficient way to get a point across.



House Rejects Proposed EPA Enforcement Cuts

On July 15, the day after the Bush administration touted the EPA's enforcement record, its proposed cuts to the agency's enforcement budget—which would have cut 54 more enforcement positions—moved forward in the House. But the House voted instead to support Rep. Jay Inslee's amendment restoring enforcement funding to last year's levels. "Strong enforcement of environmental laws is the reason our air and water are cleaner than they were 30 years ago," says Nat Mund of Sierra Club's Environmental Quality team. For more information, go to www.sierraclub.org/pressroom

Anniston Residents Oppose Army Incinerator

[FROM P. 1]

As the TV cameras rolled and reporters scribbled, several speakers addressed the crowd, including Kinney, Alabama Chapter Chair Neil Milligan, Club Environmental Justice organizer John McCown, longtime volunteer Ross Vincent, and several local residents.

"This is *Crazy In Alabama* taken to a new level," charged Kinney. "There is zero enthusiasm for the incinerator on the west side of Anniston, but the people aren't being given a choice."

For upward of 40 years west Anniston residents were subjected to PCB pollution and other toxic releases produced by the Monsanto (now Solutia) company's local plant. Some residents now have the highest concentrations of PCBs in their blood of anyone ever tested—anywhere—and many people feel it is no coincidence that the Army has located one of its incinerators in west Anniston, where the local populace has little political power and has already been poisoned.

"We believe that low-income neighborhoods and communities of color bear disproportionate environmental burdens in our society," said Milligan at a gathering/workshop the morning of the protest. The workshop was sponsored by the Club's Environmental Justice Committee and Alabama Chapter and attracted Club activists from throughout the South, as well as local citizens.

Arameta Porter was an Anniston schoolteacher until she was beset with impaired vision and involuntary facial contortions, which rendered her unable to work. Her doctors believe she was exposed to nerve agents leaking from the Anniston depot. Another longtime west Anniston resident, Jeanette Champion, who has difficulty seeing and walking, told the audience that she had seen whole families wiped out by cancer. At her side sat her granddaughter, who had to undergo massive surgery when she was one day old to correct birth defects that Champion attributes to PCB poisoning.

"My daddy's liver was destroyed by PCBs," she said. "My children have seen so much death, and I've had so many of my family die in my arms. If you live past 57 around here it's a landmark."

Craig Williams, director of the Kentucky-based Chemical Weapons Working Group (CWWG), described



Nervous Neighbors: Young Alabama activist Annaleigh Holloway and her mother Deborah participate in the anti-incinerator protest at the gates of the Anniston Army depot.

how three years ago, in Tooele, Utah—where chemical incineration is already under way—deadly sarin gas was released when rocket pieces jammed in the furnace. "Incineration is a perfect example of the way you *don't* want to handle this material," said Williams, "which is to expose it to heat, change it into a gas, and have a deliv-

ery system in the form of a smokestack." He explained that of the eight sites where toxic nerve agents are set to be destroyed, the four that have been given alternatives to incineration have all opted for neutralization. Alabama has never been given that alternative.

Vincent, a chemical engineer who worked with the Club's Colorado Chapter to successfully stop incineration in favor of neutralization in Pueblo, told the crowd that incinerators inevitably release toxic chemicals. "No matter how many layers of containment they put around it, some of that material escapes," he said.

In preparation for the incinerator to commence operation, nearly 12,600 protective hoods, 8,571 portable air filtration units, and 9,633 "Shelter-in-Place" units—boxes containing duct tape, plastic sheets, a towel, scissors, and an instructional videotape—have been distributed to west Anniston residents by the Calhoun County Emergency Management Association. But a spokesman for the county said only half the homes in the so-called "pink zone," the 6-mile swath of homes surrounding the incinerator, have the safety gear.

"This is the only American community where a civilian population has ever received gas masks," Kinney told an MSNBC interviewer. "That's not very reassuring, but we demanded them. [The Army] wouldn't have given us anything except that we demanded protection we have a right to."

"We're not asking that [the chemical weapons] be moved somewhere else," he continued. "We believe that everybody should take care of their own mess in their own backyard. But the Army is far from having the maximum protection in place that we have a right to by federal law."

In the aftermath of the weekend workshop, the Sierra Club hired the Rev. Henry Sterling for a three-month stint as an Alabama organizer, based in Anniston.

On July 16 the Alabama Department of Environmental Management notified Alabama Governor Bob Riley that it was nearly ready to let the incinerator begin a "shakedown period" including trial burns of live agents. In response, Alabama organizer Peggie Griffin and Club activists coordinated an effort with the CWWG to flood Governor Riley's office with phone calls "from far and wide," asking him not to sign the incinerator permit.

On July 31, the state issued its final approval, and Army officials announced their intention to start burning on August 6. On August 4, the CWWG filed a Temporary Restraining Order petition to the federal court in Washington, D.C. (An 11th-hour infusion of cash—more than \$10,000 of it from the Sierra Club—helped the CWWG to prepare this restraining order.)

According to Brenda Lindell, of Families Concerned about Nerve Gas Incineration, the governor requested the Army not start burning the chemical weapons before granting him the authority to shut down the incinerator if there were any problems, but this was denied, and the Army plans to go ahead regardless.

Ever since the June 21 rally at the Army depot, the fight against the Anniston incinerator has risen startlingly fast from a local issue to a story of national import. National media, including NBC Nightly News, CNN, and various cable news networks, have featured segments on Anniston, and a groundswell of public opposition to the incinerator has begun to grow. Another, larger anti-incinerator rally is planned in Anniston on August 16, regardless of whether or not the incinerator has been fired up.

The people Ross Vincent calls "ragtag activists from small communities around the country" have made their case that there's a better way to dispose of chemical weapons than burning them. So far, the Army is not listening. Residents of Anniston are hoping the federal court will.

For the latest information, go to www.sierraclub.org/planet.

But States Aren't Up to It

[FROM P. 2]

what happens on national public lands, much sway on enforcement of the Endangered Species Act, and what is or is not done in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. But for the environmental quality in your backyard, it's what happens in the state capitols that counts.

Air pollution is typically monitored and regulated by state agencies, which issue water pollution/wastewater discharge permits. Even such matters as proper disposal of hazardous wastes and cleanup of waste sites are dealt with first by the states. In theory, the EPA is supposed to ride herd over the responsible state agencies, but that's actually rare. The EPA doesn't like "second-guessing," and normally signs off on state permits and state reports.

Fortunately, all Sierra Club chapters in the states have lobbyists (chapter staff, contractors, and volunteer leaders) who work to fend off bad stuff and push the good in both the state legislatures and administrative agencies.

It is likely no accident that many of the bills winding their way through state bodies this year were similar from one state to the next—industry advocates are quite well-organized. For instance, the bill on prohibiting local governments from regulating concentrated animal feeding operations more strictly than the state was introduced in state legislatures in Florida, Texas, and several states in the upper Midwest.

It passed in Florida and is awaiting action by the governor. The Florida state legislature seems intent on replacing Idaho as the leader in anti-environmental legislation; state representatives openly boasted of sponsoring "an industry bill." Susie Caplowe, Sierra Club lobbyist in that state, sums it up: "Polluters are getting off like it's a cakewalk."

Ironically, while politicians acting on behalf of the livestock industry enacted legislation to allow that industry to operate unfettered, the citizens of Florida

voted to ban "gestation crates" at sow and farrowing facilities. It was clear to even the most obtuse observer that state politicians were not representing their constituents.

But state legislators all too often operate under the radar, and very few voters know what they are up to until the creek gets fouled, the air dirtied, or dry-cleaning chemicals pollute your backyard tomato patch. When you call to complain, you find out that such pollution is legal in your state. Fortunately, the Sierra Club lobbyists in many states have alert systems to keep Club members informed. To get connected to what's up in your state legislature, check the Sierra Club Web page—www.sierraclub.org—and follow the links to your chapter's page.

It has long been recognized by Sierra Club members that city council members become county commissioners, then become state legislators and, finally, go to Congress. It is not unheard of for governors to become president. All the more reason to find, incubate, and promote environmental champions for state offices.

Ken Midkiff is director of the Sierra Club Clean Water Campaign and former Ozark Chapter director and lobbyist in what he calls Missouri's "Temple of Doom"—the State Capitol Building.

Correction

In "Save the Wild Salmon," (July/August *Planet*), the salmon recovery bill introduced by Washington Representative Jim McDermott, the Salmon Planning Act, is H.R. 1097, not H.R. 2573, as reported.

Attention Chapter and Group Leaders

- Learn how to raise money selling Sierra Club calendars. Check out training opportunities.
- Find out why the Club's Bowling Together Task Force is not really about bowling.
- Order Sierra Club buttons, placards, and other outreach materials.

Visit the **Clubhouse**—an online resource for Sierra Club leaders—at www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org.

Hike through Red Rock Canyon

Andrea Cohen leads a 10 mile hike through one of the State's most beautiful scenic areas. Expect to see dramatic sheer canyons, get your feet wet at several North Fork River crossings, and learn about the art of rock climbing. Meet 9am at the trailhead, just past

Explore, enjoy, and— everybody now—P

BY TOM VALTIN

Imagine you're on a Sierra Club outing in the Marin Headlands, in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area just north of San Francisco. It's a gorgeous day,

the other hikers on your outing are good company, and you revel in the feel of the trail underfoot and the vista of undeveloped rolling hills meeting the sea and sky. You feel pleasantly tired and invigorated after your ten-mile hike, but you go home without hearing anything about how this wild landscape, within spitting distance of seven million people, came to be protected from development.

Now imagine the same hike, but your trip leader takes time to tell the story of how 40 years ago a planned city of 80,000 called Marinello was set to rise on these same hills. An access road and gates to the city



David Simon

had already been built, but the Sierra Club helped organize existing local opposition to the project and preserve the area as public parkland. Now, instead of subdivisions and power lines blanketing these hills, there are hiking trails, open space, and wildlife habitat. The Marin Headlands stand as one of the most stunning examples in the country of wildlands abutting a major

urban area, and the Sierra Club helped make it a reality. And before your hike is over, the trip leader tells you about another local conservation battle that has yet to be won, and offers suggestions as to how you can participate in that campaign.

It should be no surprise that the Sierra Club Outdoor Activity Governance Committee (OAGC) prefers that Club outings, of which there are approximately 10,000 each year, hew more closely to the second scenario. What might be a surprise is that many Club outings are more like the first.

"It's true," concurs Vicky Hoover, chair of the National Outing Committee's activist outings subcommittee. "Even on national outings, it's not done as often as you might think."

More than a quarter million people—members and non-members—participate in Sierra Club outings every year, a huge pool of potential activists to fight the seemingly never-ending threats to the environment. Club membership continues to grow steadily—it currently stands around 750,000—but grassroots involvement hasn't kept pace. An outing is the first contact with the Club for many people, and it is estimated that one in four Sierra Club members have been on a Club outing. That's a big pool of potential activists who can be engaged, enlightened, and energized.

"For several years there has been a requirement that national outings include a conservation component," says Kathy Wells, a trip leader and conservation officer for national outings. "I'd like to see more contact between outings leaders and conservation activists. Cooperation between these two entities will greatly benefit both, and further our mission of 'enjoy, explore, and protect.'"

The OAGC, the Outings Department, and the Conservation Task Force are working to encourage and facilitate this contact through the new Outdoor Outreach program. And although the OAGC and others feel the outings program on the whole could be more effectively harnessed to reinvigorate the Club's activist base, many chapter and group trip leaders are already doing just that.

"We're here to celebrate and protect Tampa's most precious resource—water," says Hadrian Alegarbes, Outings Chair for the Club's Tampa Bay Group. A small

flotilla of canoes and kayaks had gathered in early June for a waterborne outing on Florida's Hillsborough River. The major spring that feeds the river is threatened with a tripling of water withdrawals because the owner of the spring hopes to sell the water to a local bottling company. The river currently supplies nearly 90 percent of the water used by the city of Tampa.

"Every time you take water out, you affect the aquifer and everything that's connected to it," Alegarbes tells the group as they prepare to set off. Energized by the beauty of the riverscape and Alegarbes' pitch, several trip participants subsequently write letters and speak out against the water withdrawals at public meetings.

"It's important to be exposed in a hands-on way to what we're fighting for," says Carole Mehlman, a Club member who joined Alegarbes' outing. "You get much more passion if you realize what we're trying to preserve."

From the outset, Club outings were designed with conservation in mind. In 1889,

John Muir joined a group at the University of California that was interested in promoting recreation by making the Sierra Nevada—and especially the Yosemite region (not yet a national park)—better known. This group teamed up with others in the San Francisco Bay Area to create an alpine club. Three years later, the Sierra Club was founded.

Early Club outings were never simply hiking trips. Participants were advised to read Muir's *The Mountains of California* and Joseph LeConte's *Ramblings Through the High Sierra* prior to the trip. Once the outing was underway, leaders would lecture on forestry, biology, geology, history, and other topics of relevance. Other organizations, such as the Appalachian Mountain Club, engaged in outings, but unlike the Sierra Club, their aims were purely recreational.

One of the more dramatic illustrations of the power of outings to influence public policy came in the early 1950s, when a federal dam project on the Green and Yampa Rivers threatened to submerge large portions of Dinosaur National Monument. The Club's Outings Department organized a series of river trips to Dinosaur's spectacular canyons, each one taking 65 people into the heart of the monument. Families with young children went on these expeditions, demonstrating that rafting could be a safe recreational experience. In 1950, fewer than 50 rafters floated down the monument's canyons; by 1954, the number was nearly 1,000. The following year, bowing to public pressure that Club outings had helped galvanize, the Department of Interior announced that the Echo Park Dam project was being scrapped.

Over the next four decades Sierra Club membership boomed, but many new members were not activists per se. In 1995, then-Club President Robbie Cox started Project ACT, which sought to reinvigorate conservation activism at the local and group level. One of the projects that arose from this effort was the San Diego Chapter's "One Club" project, in which volunteers planned and carried out conservation outings to threatened places, with the goal of establishing a connection with a place and educating participants about the threats posed to it.

According to San Diego Chapter leader Camille Armstrong, who coordinated the project, One Club trips always included experts and educational materials explaining the natural history of the area and background information on the issue at hand. "The outdoor experience is much richer this way, more complete," she says. "On one outing, for example, we visited a proposed gold mine in the Imperial County desert and heard from Native Americans, representatives from the BLM, and archaeologists."

"A lot of people want to protect the places they love; they just don't know how to do it," says Ivy Gordon, who became so inspired by a One Club outing that she attended town hall meetings, networked with other groups, wrote action alerts to fellow activists, and put together a traveling slide show of places the Club had helped protect.

The One Club San Diego effort was followed five years later by a grant-funded One Club program that reached four groups or chapters each year. That program is now finishing up its 4-year run. "It was a tremendous success," says OAGC Chair David Simon. "Now we're trying to replicate it on a larger scale with the Outdoor Outreach program."

Outdoor Outreach has three objectives: (1) identify ways to incorporate a strong conservation message into Club outings, and identify whom to get on board; (2) train outings leaders, using a module that has been "road-tested" and refined over the last three to four years; and (3) write and distribute conservation literature for Club outings, such as fact sheets and "conservation scorecards" that allow trip participants to evaluate an area's ecological well-being.

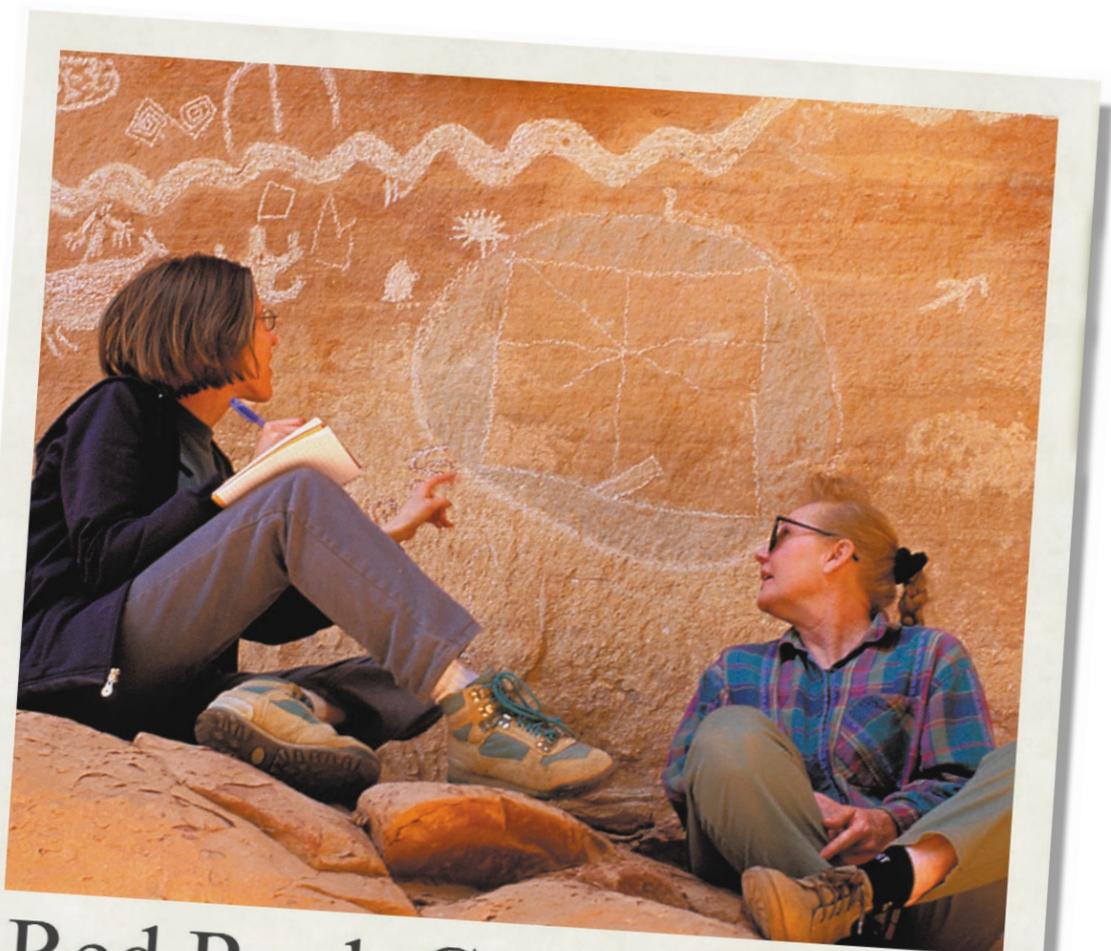
"We've been running an outings training program that includes conservation training six to eight times a year to audiences of 50 or so people," Simon explains, "and outings leaders love it. With the literature, we want to reach two audiences—outings leaders and trip participants. Outings leaders have to be convinced to hand it out, and then participants have to be convinced to join



First You Hike, Then You Win:

The Red Rock Canyon saved at right is fictional, as is the hike promoted, but it's an example of what the Club's new Outdoor Outreach campaign hopes to foster—encouraging participants on Club outings to get involved in fighting to protect the Red Rock Canyons in their own backyard.

PROTECT!



Red Rock Canyon Saved

Perseverance pays off. That was the lesson learned by volunteers for the Sierra Club and other environmental groups this week. The word came from the State House that Red Rock Canyon was set aside as a National Wilderness Preserve.

"The air is that much sweeter out here now. Standing on the lip of the canyon we were 600 vertical feet before meeting."

drinking water and wastewater. "In both cases I had a designer of the plant come along to explain what they had been doing to improve the performance of their facility," he says.

Hadrian Alegarbes, the Tampa outings leader, says that when he first started going on outings, he felt the conservation content was conveyed inconsistently.

"We'd go to beautiful places," he recalls, "but if we didn't ask the guide questions, not much was offered. The trip leaders were extremely well-informed, but I find many outdoorsy people—including myself—like to hang out in the woods rather than in crowds because we're sort of introverts. The seclusion and gentle sounds of a wild place play to our natural strengths and leanings."

Now, as outings chair, Alegarbes has made an effort to come out of his shell. "I have set stories and 'raps' for ecosystems in the area, including longleaf pine forests, hardwood swamps, cypress forests, oak scrub, and others. For example, I'll tell people that 'the story of the longleaf pine ecosystem is the story of *fire*, and we're going to look at this system from the point of view of two of its main inhabitants, the longleaf pine and the gopher tortoise."

Alegarbes says his group's outings program generated 50 letters to legislators on various topics in June alone, including a request for Senators Graham and Nelson to authorize the purchase of Pinhook Swamp in northern Florida—a critical wildlife corridor and water recharge area for the Floridan aquifer.

Rita Beving, a Lone Star (Texas) Chapter activist who heads up the Outdoor Outreach effort in the field, has led numerous Club outings, both locally in the Dallas area and to places further afield. "I find that people really want to learn about and understand the area where they'll be hiking," she says. "I like to talk about the history and the geology of the places we're visiting, and I just incorporate conservation information into that discussion—I try not to beat people over the head with it."

On longer trips where the group travels by bus, Beving regularly distributes handouts on the area they'll be visiting. Recently, she asked trip participants to fill out postcards urging the reintroduction of the Canadian lynx to Colorado's San Juan Mountains, and designation of large areas where the cats could reproduce. "You have a captive audience on bus trips," she explains.

Not all Club outings leaders are comfortable with these methods. Andy Westbom, who has led Club outings for 15 years for the San Francisco Bay Chapter, fa-

vors a subtler approach. "I don't try to sell or promote anything," he says. "I do share conservation ethics, and in a low-key manner I share conservation information about the area we're in. I help identify unique flora and fauna. I ask people to help clean up the site before we leave, disassemble illegal or inappropriate fire rings, to not create paths in sensitive meadow areas where new trails can easily be formed by people tramping the same route."

"I've found that people become more conservation-oriented by doing—participating, learning, and enjoying themselves in the wonderful wilderness," he asserts. "They bring that home with them, and they bring that to the ballot box."

Teri Shore, who also leads trips for the Bay Chapter, is comfortable with both approaches. "I do like to pitch people on issues like wilderness," she says, "but on standard backpack trips I find giving a conservation spiel at the beginning or end of the trip doesn't work very well because people are either getting ready to go, or they're ready to go home. But if you advertise a trip as a wilderness campaign trip, people know when they sign up that they'll be getting 'educated' on the issue and maybe asked to sign postcards."

Further down the coast, Andrea Leigh recently led a series of Angeles Chapter outings in connection with the Los Angeles Aqueduct, which brings water to the city from the Owens Valley, 200 miles away. "At best," Leigh says, "there are *some* Angelenos who have a vague idea that there's an aqueduct that brings water to Los Angeles from somewhere else. But the L.A. aqueduct is often confused with the California Aqueduct. And there is even less of a sense that the main reason Los Angeles exists as a megalopolis is because of this water supply."

Another Angeles Chapter trip leader, George Denny, says his fellow chapter outings leaders consistently disseminate conservation information as part of their trips. "I try to research both the conservation issues and the geology of the areas into which I lead people," he says. "We might discuss development in the Santa Monica Mountains, air pollution issues, and actions to purchase wild areas by organizations such as the Nature Conservancy. I always welcome informed botanists and others with specific areas of expertise on my trips, and I encourage them to share their knowledge with the group."

There are currently about 5,000 chapter and group outings leaders, 750 national outings leaders, and 500 inner city outings leaders. That's an impressive delivery system, the potential of which is nicely summed up by Hadrian Alagarbes:

"I have the best job in the world," he says. "I take people out to beautiful places and tell them stories about it."

the Club, become active, or become *more* active."

Simon suggests thinking of outings as a fleet of fishing boats, trolling for activists. "The outings leaders are the captains of these boats. To catch some fish, the first step is for the OAGC to ensure that our captains know something about fishing. If outing leaders don't throw the nets into the water, we won't catch any fish."

It's more than education, Simon says. "Educating trip members about the area in which they are traveling isn't a bad idea, but we should remember it is not the goal. The Sierra Club motto is 'explore, enjoy, and protect,' not 'explore, enjoy, and educate.' You will not read in *The Planet*: 'Great Victory: We lost the vote, and they built the Legacy Highway, but polls show that everybody knows all about the issue.' The goal is to inspire outings participants to *take action*."

Dan Fuller, an outings leader in the Kansas City area, says outings in his chapter are regularly used to increase both awareness and activism on local and regional conservation issues. He cites the example of a Kansas wetland, owned by a Native American tribe, through which a planned highway development was to be routed. In addition to being a productive natural area, the wetland contained Indian sacred sites, so the Sierra Club's opposition to the highway dovetailed with the tribe's opposition to the project.

"I led outings to the wetland at three different times of the year to illuminate how natural areas change with the seasons," he explains. "I invited a tribal member to piggyback onto these outings, which were promoted both by the Club and the tribe." Public opposition to the project has since grown, and court injunctions have been filed against the proposed highway routing.

Fuller has also led outings to a drinking water plant and a sewage treatment plant to educate people about



Pointing the Way: Club activist and outings leader Vicky Hoover, above, points out a landscape feature in Great Basin National Park, Nevada. One of the nation's newest national parks, Great Basin was established in 1986 with strong support from the Sierra Club. At left, participants on a Sierra Club outing pause to listen to the trip leader and admire the view of Donner Lake, near the Club's Clair Tappaan Lodge in the northern Sierra Nevada.

For more information on Outdoor Outreach, go to: www.clubhouse.sierraclub.org/outings/outreach

a alerts

Gaveling the Courts

The Bush administration pushes for federal judges who could dismantle environmental enforcement

BY BRIAN VANNEMAN

Alabama Attorney General William Pryor has argued against tough enforcement of the Clean Air Act, in favor of reducing the amount of wetlands protected by the Clean Water Act, and for the rights of polluting industries over nearby residents.

Pryor also recently joined a series of anti-environmental nominees, most notably Miguel Estrada and Carolyn Kuhl, that the Bush administration has attempted to hustle into lifetime judicial appointments. But due to fierce debate in the Senate, their futures remain in question as the August recess begins.

"We want President Bush to nominate judges with records of enforcing laws that protect our clean air, our clean water, and our special places," says David Bookbinder, senior attorney for the Sierra Club. "The courts may be the last hope we have to halt the Bush administration's assault on the environment."

The most mysterious nominee is Miguel Estrada, the administration's candidate for the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, often cited as the nation's second most influential court. In a striking maneuver, the White House is attempting to withhold or keep secret all details about Estrada's legal background and views, and use its political weight to push him through the Senate judicial approval process. Estrada has never served as on the bench before. He spent most of the 1990s at the Justice Department, which has refused to release the legal briefs he wrote there. He declined to offer opinions on a wide range of cases during a Senate Judiciary hearing, including *American Trucking v. EPA*, in which the Supreme Court upheld strong protections that eliminate soot and smog pollution from vehicles. Yet the

Bush administration was surprised when Democratic senators refused to approve Estrada. "We applaud those senators who refused to mindlessly rubber stamp Estrada's nomination and instead are demanding answers," says Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope.

Unfortunately, what is known about the other nominees may be more troubling than what is unknown about Estrada.

Because of Judge Carolyn Kuhl's troubling record on a variety of issues, California's two Democratic senators, Barbara Boxer and Diane Feinstein, asked Senate Judiciary Chair Orrin Hatch not to send her nomination to the floor. The most troubling example of Judge Kuhl's ideology came during her argument in *UAW v. Brock* (1986), where she unequivocally urged the Supreme Court to overrule the doctrine of associational standing. This doctrine is the legal basis that allows environmental groups, trade unions, and other organizations to represent their members' interests in court. Without it, the Sierra Club and many other groups would be crippled in their ability to hold polluters and governments accountable.

Kuhl, Pryor, and others are also devoted to the values of "new federalism," which elevates state sovereignty over Congress' authority, an especially dangerous doctrine when the White House is encouraging the loosening of environmental regulations, and states may be tempted to lower the bar even further to compete for business.

Opposing judicial nominees is not business-as-usual at the Sierra Club. Despite strong objections to others like Priscilla Owens and Charles Pickering, only 5 of the 150 nominees proposed by the Bush administration have been opposed—Estrada, Pryor, and Kuhl, Jeffrey Sutton for the Sixth Circuit and Victor Wolski for the Court of Federal Claims.



**NO ANSWERS.
NO OPINIONS.
NO ESTRADA.
NO QUESTION:
STOP ESTRADA**

Judge Who? The mystery man above appeared as part of an ad placed in *Roll Call*, the newspaper of Capitol Hill, by the Sierra Club and other groups concerned about Bush's judicial nominations. See the complete ad at www.sierraclub.org/politics/judicial_nominees.

Take Action Write or call your senators and tell them to oppose the Bush administration's tactics and nominees. The administration must consult with the Senate before selecting nominees, allow lawmakers access to candidates' background information, and choose nominees that respect the environment and the Constitution.

Energy Madness

On the last day of July, before the Senate left for its August recess, it passed the same energy bill as in 2002, setting the stage for a conference with the House-passed bill, which includes drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

"Americans deserve better," says Sierra Club Executive Director Carl Pope. The Club supports an energy bill that would increase fuel efficiency, reduce oil dependence, and devote more resources to renewable energy.

The surprising resurrection of last year's bill—what Club Legislative Director Debbie Sease calls "surreal Kabuki Senate theater"—came as senators squabbled about amendments, and Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota, the Democratic leader, commented that if the Senate was serious about passing a bill, it would start with the bill passed last year (by the Democrat-controlled Senate). Majority Leader Bill Frist and the Republicans seized on that and put the 2002 bill to a vote. It passed 84 to 14.

The Club will continue to fight against this damaging bill, which is likely to get worse in conference. It must be approved again by the Senate and House after returning from conference. Last year's bill died in conference.

Take Action To find out the latest action, go to www.sierraclub.org/action.

to take action

WRITE: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

CALL: The White House, (202) 456-1111
Capitol Switchboard, (202) 224-3121

LEARN: For updates on the Club's legislative priorities, call the Legislative Hotline at (202) 675-2394.

JOIN: To join the Sierra Club's Take Action network and receive e-mail alerts when action is needed, go to www.sierraclub.org/takeaction.

SURF: Visit our Web site at www.sierraclub.org

Unprotected Waters

The Sierra Club's Clean Water Index

BY ANANDA HIRSCH

Year the Clean Water Act was signed into law:	1972
Percentage of the nation's wetlands from which protections were removed on January 15, 2003, when the EPA changed the definition of "waters of the United States": ¹	20
Estimated percentage of rivers and lakes in the United States that were safe for swimming and fishing in 1970, prior to the Clean Water Act: ²	33
Estimated percentage that are safe today: ³	60
Millions of pounds of toxic chemicals that industrial facilities discharged into our nation's lakes, rivers, and streams in 2001: ⁴	220
Estimated percentage of the largest industrial plants and wastewater treatment facilities that are likely to be in significant violation of their pollution discharge permits at any given time: ⁵	25
Percentage of those facilities that violated water pollution standards repeatedly by significant amounts: ⁵	83
Percentage that exceeded their water pollution discharge permit limits by at least 100 percent: ⁵	50
Percentage against which the EPA took action between 1999 and 2001: ⁵	15
Approximate fraction of EPA actions against major water polluters that resulted in a fine: ⁵	1/2
Average fine assessed: ⁵	\$6,000
Number of enforcement positions at the EPA that the Bush administration proposes to cut: ⁶	100

The Sierra Club is especially concerned that the Clean Water Act has not been rigorously enforced, and that the EPA's January 15, 2003, rule change removes protection for 20 percent of our nation's wetlands, those defined as "isolated" waters. Representatives Saxton, Leach, Oberstar, and Dingell have written a "Dear Colleague" letter urging the EPA to reverse the rule change.

Take Action Urge your representative to sign and support the Saxton/Leach/Oberstar/Dingell Dear Colleague letter and restore protection to the 20 percent of our nation's wetlands abandoned by their January policy change. Say that by transferring the responsibility for protecting our rivers, streams, and wetlands from federal to local officials, the EPA has increased the chances that industries that improperly dump lead, arsenic, and wastewater will get off free.

See the complete Water Index online at www.sierraclub.org/planet

Sources: 1-"Wetlands Protection Fades," The New York Times, February 11, 2003; 2-M. Kremer, Clean Water Act 30th Anniversary; 3-EPA website; 4-EPA Press Release, 2003; 5-Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, *A Pilot for Performance Analysis of Selected Components of the National Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Program*, 2003; 6-EPA Budget.

Bush's Window of Opportunity

[FROM P. 1]

which do not require congressional approval, can be challenged with public pressure and lawsuits. That's happening now with the Clean Air Act rule changes.

When the Clean Air Act became law in 1970, thousands of the oldest and dirtiest power plants and refineries were "grandfathered"—allowing them to pollute up to ten times more than modern plants. In 2003, thousands of these polluting facilities are still operating. Under a provision called New Source Review, dirty facilities are required to upgrade to new anti-pollution technologies if they expand. Earlier this year, however, the Bush administration finalized a set of rules that would allow them to expand without doing so.

But in fact, these rules may not be final. Opposition to the more lenient rules, especially from New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and attorneys general from eight other Northeastern states, has grown strong enough that the EPA announced in July that it would "review" the new rules. Insiders say this review is a procedural step to ensure all the "i"s are dotted and "t"s crossed and that it is unlikely the EPA will change direction.

Another administrative rule that the Club is challenging is the Interior Department's resurrection of a frontier-era law known as RS2477, which allows states and local governments to stake claim to public lands in order to build highways. Jim Catlin, Sierra Club board member from Utah, says that, "Anti-wilderness forces are using this law as a loophole to open up roads across public lands."

The administration is also attempting to reduce public involvement in the decision-making process. Pope points to the administration's refusal to share documents from Vice President Cheney's energy task force as the most egregious example of this. (The Club has filed suit against Cheney, and the D.C. Court recently upheld its position. See "Not Above the Law," p. 2.)

Ed Hopkins, director of the Club's Environmental Quality Team, says the administration is pushing to weaken the National Environmental Policy Act, which ensures that federal agencies fully consider the adverse environmental consequences of their actions. "The public is getting shafted," he says. "The Bush administration says it wants to 'streamline' the environmental review process. 'Steamrolling' is more accurate."

It may seem like the Bush administration has the power to push through these anti-environmental and anti-democratic measures, but it's missing one key element—public support.

Americans care about protecting the environment. Bush and his cronies know that and they have been masterful at paying lip service while doing damage. For example, in July, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham embarked on a multi-city road show asking Americans to do their share to conserve energy. Good. But back in Washington, the administration continued to push policies that would weaken attempts to conserve energy, like weakening existing energy-efficiency standards for air conditioners.

The Sierra Club's job in the coming months is to demonstrate to the American people the difference between what Bush says and what he does, and to stress that we have tried-and-tested solutions available to address our environmental problems, like higher fuel efficiency in our cars, buildings, and appliances and state-of-the-art pollution-control technologies in our power plants and factories. There is a better way.

There are plenty of opportunities to get involved and help keep the pressure on. Contact your local chapter to find out how. Or go the Club's Web site at www.sierraclub.org.



Zucchini Alert! Quick, Lock the Car.

In 2001, the Nebraska Chapter hired **Laura Krebsbach** to educate citizens about the dangers of pollution from industrial-scale meat factories, and organize them to stop new facilities. Initially she was rebuffed and told, "we don't want the Sierra Club." But she persevered and has since built an extensive network of volunteers who are writing letters, jamming public meetings, and working with her to stop factory farm pollution. Now, when someone catches wind of a proposed facility, they call the Club. "We've gone from being the pariah to being the first place rural Nebraskans call for help," Krebsbach says.

The attitude towards the Sierra Club has changed so much that Krebsbach says she has to lock her car when she travels the state. Otherwise, her "farm women" hunt her down and secretly fill her car with vegetables.

Metro Bus Blues

Last summer, Sierra Club member **Dennis Jaffe** decided he'd ride the morning bus to his new job in the Capitol Hill area of Washington, D.C. Only problem was, he couldn't figure out which bus to take. There were no maps at the local bus stops, and scant out-of-date information posted there. Phone calls to Metrobus, the D.C.-area transportation authority, yielded only frustration, and the recommendation that he travel to one of three distant locations where bus maps were for sale for \$1.50.

"I thought, 'Gee, if it's difficult for me to figure out this information, it must be difficult for others,'" he says.

Jaffe spent the next year lobbying Metrobus to provide free, widely available system maps—like the huge majority of bus agencies—and guarantee that those maps would also be posted at bus stops and online. Early this year, the Sierra Club's Washington, D.C., Chapter endorsed Jaffe's ideas and appointed him its bus information representative. After being stonewalled for months, Metrobus finally agreed to make free maps available by January.

But Jaffe hopes that this is just the beginning. He envisions a system that is convenient, easy to understand, widely used, and helps limit sprawl and pollution. That may take more than free maps.



Getting There:

Dennis Jaffe, crusader for better transit information in D.C., reads a soon-to-be-free system map as a bus pulls up.



Reaching out with Music: Perry Farrell, front man for the band Jane's Addiction, poses with Sierra Student Coalition director Meighan Davis, left, and the SSC's Crystal Durham. Farrell founded Lollapalooza, a touring alternative music festival that is helping spread the word about fuel efficiency and other environmental issues. "The voice that reaches out furthest to people is a musical one," he says.

Rock 'n Roll, 'n Renewable Energy!

While most of their peers were packing up their dorm rooms and heading to summer rock concerts, **Meighan Davis**, director of the Sierra Student Coalition (SSC), was, well, packing up for rock concerts. Not just any concerts—the SSC had tickets to Lollapalooza, the traveling alternative music festival that in the '90s took the Woodstock concept and added mohawks and tattoos.

Davis and **Billy Grayson**, national conservation organizer in the Club's Washington, D.C., office, drove to the shows in a rented hybrid car and set up Sierra Club information centers, where they discussed environmental issues and encouraged concert-goers to get active. Davis, Grayson, and their team also persuaded a bunch of rock and rap performers to visit the tent. Perry Farrell, pictured above hanging out with the SSC crew, is Lollapalooza's founder, front man of the band Jane's Addiction, and a big part of the reason the Club was involved in the festival. He's made sure that the importance of alternative energy sources and other progressive causes are communicated to the audience, with a large area for groups to table outside the concerts. "We're in danger of losing every environmental law written in this country," said Farrell, "and the voice that reaches out furthest to people is a musical one."

Now back in D.C., Davis bemoans that, "my rock star lifestyle has ended." But she helped sign up a record number of new college-age Club volunteers—more than 1,000—and averaged more than 45 mpg in the rented hybrid.

Shasta Fundraiser

To heighten breast cancer awareness and raise funds for treatment and research, 49 women and men from all over the country embarked on a mid-July ascent of California's Mt. Shasta. Base camp for the expedition was the The Sierra Club Foundation's hut on the mountain's south flank. Sixteen climbers made it to the summit of the 14,162-foot volcano, but according to trip participant Nancy Swift, "everybody made a summit." Swift was joined on the climb by her sister Hilary and her mother, Judy Guggenhime, one of the many breast cancer survivors participating. a breast cancer survivor. Breast cancer survivor **Jenny Coyle**, former *Planet* senior editor and now a member of the Club's Web team in San Francisco, was also among the climbers. The event garnered more than \$600,000.

Green Test Drive

On July 31, the city of Columbia, Missouri, announced that it is getting on board the clean-air train by including a hybrid car in this year's budget; two more will join the city fleet next year. **Chris Hayday**, a local Sierra Club member, has been promoting hybrids by driving his own around town.

In Memory

Richard Coleman, a founder of the Club's Florida Chapter, died on July 18 in a head-on airboat collision in central Florida. A retired chemist for the federal government, Coleman was a passionate outdoorsman and protector of Florida's natural ecosystems. He headed up the Club's Kissimmee River Restoration Committee, and for nearly 20 years led the fight to restore the natural contours of the 103-mile meandering waterway, which the Army Corps of Engineers had turned into a straight 56-mile drainage ditch. Coleman's wife Frances says he was taking photographs of the Kissimmee River Valley the day he died. He was 59.

—TOM VALTIN AND BRIAN VANNEMAN

who we are

Ollie Mayer — Woodside, California
former Loma Prieta Chapter conservation chair

"I started working on conservation issues in San Mateo County in the '60s when few others seemed interested," says Ollie Mayer. "In those days there were no trail maps for San Mateo County, and the existing trails weren't well marked. I took people out to explore the county's trails, and I encouraged them to take others out, especially children. Now a lot of



the people who came on those hikes with me are Club leaders."

A 50-year Club member and former Loma Prieta Chapter conservation chair, Mayer has been instrumental in preserving coastal resources, opposing illegal logging practices, and extending the hiking trail network in San Mateo County.

One of her most satisfying victories was stopping a proposed 20-mile, 8-lane freeway along the largely undeveloped coast south of San Francisco.

Mayer is also especially proud of her leadership in purchasing and constructing the Sierra Club hiker's hut in Sam MacDonald County Park, now part of Portola Redwoods State Park. More than 40,000 hikers have stayed there since the hut opened in 1977.

Now 84 and long-retired from her career as a mechanical engineer—she was a founder of the Society of Women Engineers—Mayer she has won many chapter awards, as well as the national Sierra Club's Special Achievement Award. As fellow Loma Prieta activist Ann Harding puts it: "She has gone head-to-head with balky legislators and lawyers from San Mateo to Sacramento to Washington and never stops raising hell for important environmental causes."

—TOM VALTIN

Lloyd Tupling—former Washington Director

Lloyd Tupling was a young journalist living in Idaho in the 1950s when the federal government's plans to block his beloved Snake River to create the Hells Canyon Dam swept him unexpectedly into a life of environmental advocacy on behalf of the Sierra Club. On July 11, he died from complications caused by a stroke.

Mike McCloskey, the Club's second executive director, says of his friend, "Tup may have been the most important person in helping America's environmental movement get beyond rhetoric and get results."

Tupling worked hard to earn such recognition, but always remained humble. As Washington director



of the Sierra Club through the '60s, he was instrumental in defeating the logging and mining industries' attempts to gain access to America's protected lands, and in fighting efforts to weaken environmental regulations. (They were doing that 40 years ago too.) One of his major victories was preventing Congress from subsidizing domestic supersonic airplanes, which would have adversely affected the stratospheric ozone layer. After more than two decades in Washington, Tupling retired from full-time work for the Club in 1982, dedicating himself to volunteer work, including trustee of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico.

Tupling served as a war correspondent in the South Pacific during World War II, and, during his 1938 honeymoon in Mexico, became the last journalist to interview Leon Trotsky before his assassination.

Tupling is survived by 3 children, 12 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and other family members. The memory of his easygoing nature, conviction, and commitment to the environment, will also be remembered by the Sierra Club.

—BRIAN VANNEMAN

Meighan Davis—Washington, D.C.
Sierra Student Coalition Director

"I first got interested in the environment when I was 12 years old and I went to a Dave Matthews concert in Norfolk, Virginia, where I'm from," says Meighan Davis, now 21. "There was an organizer from Greenpeace who had a booth, and I got hooked. The first thing I did was set up an environmental group at my middle school that focused on recycling.



"In high school I worked on the Home Depot campaign spearheaded by the Rainforest Action Network, getting Home Depot to stop selling old-growth lumber. We won! And then we got the rest of the home improvement industry to follow suit."

In college, as a member of the Sierra Student Coalition, Davis worked to help get Staples Office Supplies to achieve an average of 30 percent post-consumer recycled content across all paper products it sells. "And last November they committed to start phasing out purchases of paper products from the Canadian boreal forests, the southern United States, and U.S. national forests," she adds happily.

Davis became SSC national director upon graduating from college this past June. "I hope to make this the edgiest year in SSC history," she says. "We want 5,000 new student volunteers to work with Sierra Club chapters and groups in electoral battleground states.

"I'd encourage all Club activists to work with younger people," Davis asserts. "We're not just a future generation of environmental activists—we're the next generation of the Sierra Club!"

—TOM VALTIN

Know someone whose story is deserving? Contact us at *The Planet*, 85 Second St., Second Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105; planet@sierraclub.org.

THE PLANET

The Planet (ISSN 1077-4998) is published eight times a year by the Sierra Club to help activists fight for environmental protection at the local, state, national, and international levels.

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Subscriptions

The Planet is free to all Sierra Club leaders as well as to members who join the Club's activist network.

Members will be contacted throughout the year and asked to take action as part of the Club's local, state, and federal efforts to preserve and strengthen environmental protection. To join the activist network, call: (415) 977-5653; or write: Sierra Club Activist Desk, 85 Second St., 2nd Fl., San Francisco, CA 94105; or go to www.sierraclub.org/planet.

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one-minute activist

Club to Congress: Stop Highway Robbery

Members of the 108th Congress will soon be deliberating over the nation's transportation spending for the next six years—more than \$300 million—through the transportation bill known as TEA-3, Prioritizing our Transportation Agenda.

Transportation is intimately linked to air and water quality, land use, and our quality of life. Some of the proposals pending would weaken the environmental review process for new, large highways; reduce the frequency and scope of air quality checkups; remove protections for parks, wetlands, and historic sites; and steal funds from the national transit program in a mad grab for even more highway dollars.

Urge your senators and representative to oppose these damaging proposals and instead increase funding for transit programs, which have yielded traffic relief, transportation choices, and community revitalization.

Clip and send the coupon at right to your representative, or better yet, write your own letter to:

Your representative's name
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

You can also call your representative at the Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121.

To find out who your representative is, check out <http://zoomer.sierraclub.org>.

Or you can go to the Sierra Club's Web site and take action, go to www.sierraclub.org/action/?alid=271

More for Transit,
Less for Highways

Dear Representative _____:

Traffic jams and air pollution have become too commonplace in American communities. Building highways in and around towns without properly designing them to fit the existing community is destructive.

We need clean transportation options that will enhance our communities. Please protect and grow the national transit program. It is time to diversify America's transportation system and offer more convenient, clean, and efficient public transportation choices to commuters and travelers.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

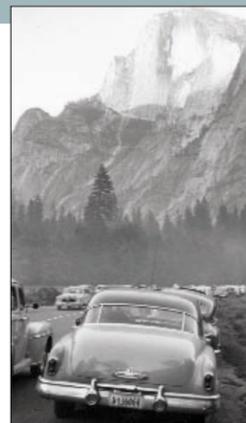
updates

Honoring the Chugach

Anchorage, Alaska, mayor Mark Begich proclaimed July 19, 2003, to be Chugach National Forest Day. The proclamation listed numerous superlatives about the Chugach, and Begich included a handwritten note that read, "Let's keep the Chugach wild." Meanwhile, the Sierra Club's Alaska Chapter celebrated the week of July 13-19 as Wild Chugach Week, with hikes, slide shows, tabling, and other events designed to reach out to the business community of south-central Alaska. More than 30 restaurants and businesses participated with a Wild Alaska Salmon campaign, and the week ended with a Chugach Day Festival in Cooper Landing with kayaking, river rafting, music, and a salmon cookout.

National Park-ing Lot?

A bill introduced in July by Congressman George Radanovich (R-Calif.), would overturn much of Yosemite National Park's current management plan, which promotes rigorous protection of the valley's wild splendor. The Radanovich bill would emphasize "easy access" to the valley, phase out low-pollution shuttle vehicles in favor of new parking spaces, and demolish the 100-year-old Leconte Memorial Lodge, a historic park building used by the Sierra Club under a special use permit from the National Park Service. The Bush administration has not taken a position, but expressed a willingness to "work with [Radanovich]."



Seeds of Deception Tour

This fall, Jeffrey Smith, a member of the Sierra Club's Genetic Engineering Committee, will go on tour to promote his new book *Seeds of Deception: Exposing Industry and Government Lies About the Safety of the Genetically Engineered Foods You're Eating*. He is available to work with local chapters or groups to call attention to the dangers associated with genetically modified foods. Contact him at (641) 472-8338. Or go to the Club's GE Committee Web page at www.sierraclub.org/biotech for more information.