



SIERRA CLUB
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Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Pelosi Joins Fete for Wayburns's 100th p. 10



JOHN CALAWAY

LAST ISSUE

The PLANET

sierraclub.org/planet

November/December 2006 ■ VOL. 13, NO. 6

from THE editor

The Swan Song of the Planet—
Good News Only

The Future's So Bright...

BY JOHN BYRNE BARRY

Welcome to the “good news only” issue of the *Planet*. We know there's bad stuff going on, but you'll have to go elsewhere for that. We're all about solutions, victories, hope, and promise. Fortunately, there's plenty of good news, starting with the greenest Election Day in memory. You can read about that and other grassroots victories starting on page 2.

I'm sad to report, however, that this is the last issue of the *Planet*—in this form as a printed and mailed newsletter.

But the stories that have filled the *Planet's* pages for 13 years will live on in other venues. We will continue to report on our grassroots victories, our best campaign practices, and our volunteer leaders in *Sierra* magazine, the Web site, chapter and group newsletters, and e-mail publications like the *Insider*.

I was part of the conception and launch of the *Planet* in July 1994, have been the lead designer since the beginning, and took on the managing editor role in 1995. So for me this is poignant, like saying goodbye to a long-time friend.

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Smart Energy Solutions p. 5



SIERRA STUDENT COALITION

Sierra Club Scrapbook p. 10



BECKI CLARSON



Wind Powers the Future: In 1993, Iowa's Spirit Lake Community School District installed its first wind turbine. Then after paying back the loan in five years from energy savings, put in a second turbine five times more powerful than the first that generates most of the electricity for the schools and district office. The new one has almost paid for itself, and starting in 2007 it will turn a profit that goes to the schools. Inspired by the school district, local farmer Paul Neblitz installed his first turbine last year and plans to build ten more, producing energy along with his corn and soybeans. For more on “Smart Energy Solutions,” see our special insert starting on page 5.

The PLANET

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SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Election Elation, Roadless Redux, and More

BY TOM VALTIN

[tom.valtin@sierraclub.org]

Wow! One of my favorite tasks as *Planet* editor is to report on Sierra Club victories from around the country for our year-end issue. As is my annual custom, I put out a call to grassroots leaders, and this year I received far more stories than we can

recount here. Even had the election not resulted in greener elected leaders from coast to coast, there would have been plenty of good news to celebrate. We've chosen nine of these victories to report on, plus a couple to squeeze into photo captions. As for those we don't have space for here, we're launching a new Grassroots feature on our Web site at sierraclub.org/grassroots where we will regularly report on Club successes and struggles. We'll see you there!

Pombo Upset Highlights Green Election Day

The environment won a resounding victory on November 7 when voters elected a greener Congress, greener governors, and green candidates at every level of government in every region of the country. Thousands of Sierra Club volunteers and staff did their part, engaging the public about the environment, taking the Club's message door-to-door, and pounding the pavement to get out the vote.

No race was more important to the Club than that between wind power consultant Jerry McNerney and seven-term California Congressman Richard Pombo, the powerful House Resources Chair. McNerney lost to Pombo by 22 percentage points in 2004, and Pombo's re-election was widely seen as a near-certainty just weeks before the election. But with the support of hundreds of volunteers from the Sierra Club and other environmental and labor organizations, McNerney garnered 53 percent of the vote in a district where registered Republicans far outnumber Democrats.

Club volunteers and staff, along with celebrity guests Jennifer Garner and Ben Affleck, made phone calls, went door-to-door, ran radio ads, and deployed mobile billboards in Pombo's district. "Our ability to defeat an extreme anti-environmental incumbent shows the power of environmental issues with voters," says Club Executive Director Carl Pope, who was out knocking on doors in the district



Mr. McNerney Goes to Washington: Newly-elected Congressman Jerry McNerney talks to the media on Election Night after upsetting House Resources Chair Richard Pombo of California with a big boost from the Sierra Club and other environmental and labor groups. Below, get-out-the-vote volunteers in Pleasanton take a break before heading out to knock on more doors.

until 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. The next day, Pombo blamed his defeat not on Iraq or his alleged connections with Jack Abramoff, but on concerted efforts of environmental groups and other critics who targeted his race.

Never have more candidates, of both parties, run on energy and environmental issues, Pope asserts. Voter concerns over high gas prices deepened into doubts about our current energy policy, the lack of forward-looking energy solutions, and concern about the fact that our oil dependence ties our fate to the most unstable parts of the world and increases the

threat of global warming.

While some Club-backed Republican environmental champions lost in the Democrats' coast-to-coast surge—notably Senator Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island—the Democratic control of the House and Senate is likely to improve prospects for the environment.

The national Sierra Club and its Political Committee "micro-targeted" more than 300,000 environment-first voters in dozens of congressional, gubernatorial, and legislative races around the country and mobilized thousands of volunteers and staff to get out the vote.



Roadless Rule Reinstated

More than five years of Sierra Club grassroots activism, lobbying, and legal action paid off in September when a federal judge in California reinstated the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. Enacted in 2001 by President Clinton, the Roadless Rule protects 58.5 million roadless acres in America's national forests from road-building, logging, and mining.

One of the Bush administration's first decisions on taking office was to block the rule, substituting a plan that encouraged logging and mining on public lands. The administration formally repealed the rule in 2005, replacing it with a policy of state-by-state management that forced governors to petition the federal government if they wanted protections for national forests within their borders.

Back when the Clinton administration first proposed the rule, the Sierra Club and its allies deluged the Forest Service with a record-breaking one million public comments in support of protecting wild forests. "The Roadless Rule is based on real science and was the result of the most extensive public comment process ever, spanning three years and 600 public meetings," says Club public lands specialist Sean Cosgrove.

But when Bush blocked the rule, the

[MORE ON P. 3]

THE PLANET

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

Managing Editor/Designer: John Byrne Barry
Senior Editor: Tom Valtin
Contributor: Jenny Coyle

This is the last issue of the *Planet*, but you can continue to find news and features for and about Sierra Club leaders, activists, and supporters at sierraclub.org/grassroots/.

Sierra Club Grassroots features reporting on Club grassroots activism, as well as **Sierra Club Scrapbook**—short almost-daily blurbs and photos from the field, and **Faces of the Sierra Club**—a gallery of activist profiles.

And to sign up for our twice-monthly e-mail newsletter, **Sierra Club Insider**, with links to Grassroots, Scrapbook, and Faces, go to sierraclub.org/insider

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The Sierra Club Story—Through the Lens of the Planet

Following is a series of *Planet* front pages, which show how the the Sierra Club has shaped, and been shaped by, the environmental politics of the past 13 years.

JULY 1994 ▶

Property Rights Ruse:

In the summer of 1994, when the *Planet* publishes its first issue, George W. Bush, a failed oil company executive and managing partner of the Texas Rangers baseball team, is running for governor of Texas.

We run a Nancy Kittle photograph of Death Valley on the front page, with the caption, "Almost Home," about the California desert victory on the horizon. We also report on the burgeoning "takings" movement, an alliance of anti-environmental advocates hiding under the guise of protecting private property rights.

Meanwhile, the Sierra Club is launching its first Web site. We have e-mail, but most of our activists and members don't.



SEPT. 1994 ▶

Desert Victory, Global Warming Threat:

On October 31, 1994, President Clinton signs the California Desert Protection Act, capping a campaign that started in the 1970s when Judy Anderson, Jim Dodson, and other self-described "desert rats" started exploring the vast dunes and mountains of Southern California and began efforts to protect it from such damaging activities as the annual Barstow-to-Las Vegas motorcycle race.

For the first of many times in the pages of the *Planet*, the Sierra Club touts making cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline as "the biggest single step" toward curbing global warming and saving oil.



Victories

[FROM P. 2]

Club had to do it all over again, and since 2001, postcard campaigns and e-mail outreach have kept up a steady drumbeat. In Virginia, Club organizer Dave Muhly and others led "Tours de Cut," taking locals to still-intact national forest roadless areas as well as logged areas so they could experience the contrast for themselves. Oregon Chapter members organized when 12,000 acres of roadless-area logging was proposed in the wake of 2002's Biscuit fire, successfully lobbying the governor to take a stand for roadless area protection and battle the Bush administration in court. "We lost a couple of special places, but we won a huge victory overall and the vast majority of the roadless area logging proposals never moved forward," says chapter organizer Ivan Maluski.

Club members wrote op-eds, letters-to-the-editor, and contacted their governors, stressing that national forests should be protected by a national rule. "In the last year the public really got behind that idea," Muhly says. "State protection is great, but it's no substitute for national protection."

The Sierra Club and a coalition of states and environmental groups also sued the Forest Service to reinstate the Roadless Rule, objecting to the Bush administration's scrapping of the rule with no environmental analysis and little public input. District Judge Elizabeth LaPorte ruled for reinstatement, saying, "While regulation is not a popularity contest, the 1.8 million comments [on the Bush administration rule]...most of which were negative...reflect the heated public debate over the rule's impact." LaPorte's decision came as several states were preparing to allow road construction on these lands, paving the way for logging, mining, oil and gas development, and off-road vehicle use.

California Tackles Global Warming

Thanks in large part to a big push by Sierra Club California, in August the California State Legislature passed a landmark bill to create the nation's first economy-wide cap on global warming emissions. Four weeks later, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Global Warming Solutions Act into law.

The bill will require California's greenhouse gas emissions to return to 1990 levels by 2020. It will be implemented by the state Air Resources Board, which is recognized as a leader in setting air quality standards.

Sierra Club California—the 13 Sierra Club chapters in the state—was pivotal in building the political will to pass the historic legislation. Each year, Sierra Club California holds a Lobby Day where activists come to Sacramento to learn how to lobby, and then do it. This year the Global Warming Solutions Act was seen as so crucial that the usual four or more bills to lobby weren't selected.

"In a summer when everyone talked about the climate, the California legislature actually did something about it," says Sierra Club California Legislative Director Bill Magavern. Environmental and health groups enlisted businesses, faith groups, local governments, labor unions, and others to support what Magavern calls the most important environmental measure in recent years.

"Governor Schwarzenegger deserves credit for putting the global warming issue high on his agenda, and for finally agreeing to support [the bill] just before the legislature sent it to him," he says. "In between, though, he tried his best to weaken the bill, right down to threatening a veto just before



Power to the People—Just Not Coal-Fired: When a new coal-fired power plant was proposed in Seward, Alaska, the "gateway" to Kenai Fjords National Park, Alaska Chapter activists researched the developer's own "model" power plant in Montana and discovered it was shut down due to repeated permit violations. The Seward City Council turned the project down.

he capitulated and announced he would sign it."

Among those who helped apply the pressure that ultimately brought Schwarzenegger around was Magavern's 9-year-old daughter, Emily. In early April, she spoke at a press conference in Sacramento on the just-introduced legislation, which had been triggered by a Climate Action Team report commissioned by Schwarzenegger in 2005.

"I don't want the polar bears to lose their homes," Emily told a packed room of reporters and legislators, including the bill's authors Assemblywoman Fran Pavley and Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez. Standing on a stepstool so she could see over the podium, she told the crowd, "We can't rely on oil forever."

In the end, the bill passed the Assembly 47-32. "Sierra Club California made this a top priority all year," says the senior Magavern. "Club activists can truly feel they contributed to passage of this historic bill."

Alaskans Nix Coal-Fired Plant

When a new coal-fired power plant was proposed in Seward, Alaska, the "gateway" to Kenai Fjords National Park, local Sierra Club activists exposed the developer's own "model," a Montana plant that had been shut down due to permit violations, to discredit the proposal and convince the local city council to turn it down.

Seward resident and Alaska Chapter volunteer Russ Maddox had just arrived in the state capital of Juneau after a trip to Washington, D.C., for Alaska Wilderness Week, a twice-annual gathering for activists to get lobbying and leadership training and meet with federal decision-makers. He was putting his training to work lobbying the state legislature as part of an Alaska Conservation Voters "legislative fly-in" when he received an e-mail at his Juneau hostel informing him of a proposed coal-fired power plant in Seward.

"That very day I'd heard presentations on global warming and Alaska's renewable energy potential, high-

lighting the adverse consequences of coal," he says. "Sitting a few blocks from the capital, I was in a great position to seek a renewable energy solution instead of this huge mistake we seemed headed towards."

In Juneau, he met with his state representatives and energy regulators to discuss the power plant proposal, and then back in Seward, he and fellow members of the Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance formed a coalition to fight the plant.

"Just opposing it wasn't enough," says Maddox, standing second from right, above, with other coalition members. "We had to do our homework and offer viable alternatives like hydro, tidal, and wind power." They gathered more than 600 signatures on a petition (in a town of 3,000) and generated more than 100 formal public comments in favor of alternatives to coal.

But the coalition went further, researching the developer's "model" coal plant in Montana and finding it shut down, with a long history of broken promises to the community and the EPA. They also contacted Montana environmental groups, which Maddox says were "remarkably helpful." The environmental groups there even wrote to Alaskan leaders urging them not to make the same mistake Montana did.

In September, the council voted down the project. Maddox credits Chapter Chair Dr. Paul Forman and staff organizers Maryellen Oman, Katherine Fuselier, and Betsy Goll for playing key roles in the campaign. He adds, "Never hesitate to call another organization for advice."

Citizen-Collected Evidence Compels Alabama Cleanup

When Willard Jones, a retired refinery manager from Alabama, crawled along the creek bank near his home to collect jars of water samples, he had no idea he'd be making

[MORE ON P. 5]



◀ FEB. 1995

JUNE 1995 ■ JUNE 1996 ▶

Gingrich Launches War on the Environment:

For the first time in 40 years, the Republicans gain control of both the House and Senate. House Speaker Newt Gingrich launches the "Contract With America," 10 draft bills packaged as a populist "get the government off our backs" movement. But the Sierra Club and its allies begin a many-month process of exposing the radical anti-environmental initiatives buried in the Contract.

Public Outrage Stalls Congress' Wildlands Grab:

The Republican leadership unleashes a torrent of initiatives that have been on anti-environmentalists' wish list for years, like drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and expanding timber sales in the national forests, and when their agenda stalls, they take to back-door attacks, like burying anti-environmental riders in must-pass budget bills. But citizen outcry turns against the Republicans, and twice the government is shut down when President Clinton vetoes budget bills. Gingrich caves. By spring, the tide turns.



Victories

[FROM P. 3]

history. But the water samples collected by Jones and other Sierra Club Water Sentinels volunteers helped win a court settlement from a neighboring factory hog operation, which was polluting local waterways with dangerous levels of E. coli.

This is the first time citizen-collected data has been used successfully in a lawsuit brought under the Clean Water Act. The evidence included a two-year "odor log" kept by a neighbor who avoided going outside many days because of the stench.

Willard and Barbara Jones and Pearl Ivey of Henagar, Alabama, are neighbors of the Whitaker & Sons confined animal feeding operation, and a creek that drains the facility runs through the Jones' property. In 2003, the Joneses and Ivey teamed up with the Sierra Club to bring suit against Whitaker for polluting streams that flow into the Tennessee River in violation of state and federal clean water regulations.

The suit also claimed that the odor from the operation was damaging neighbors' property values, and that the factory sprayed liquid waste not just on its own fields, but on neighboring property.

Jones and his wife had planned to build a retirement home on their property, but the stench from the hog factory and concerns over water pollution made them abandon the plan. "I never imagined our retirement would be spent fighting a hog farm," he says.

With funding from the Club's Water Sentinels program, Alabama Chapter Conservation Chair Bryan Burgess, an environmental science professor at Jacksonville State University, and colleague Blake Otwell worked with Jones and other volunteers to monitor streams near the factory. The water samples they collected showed high levels of E. coli and fecal coliform.

Burgess and Club organizer Peggie Griffin recruited attorney Mark Martin to represent the Club. Plaintiff Pearl Ivey kept a log showing there was an offensive odor more than 1,200 times over a two-year period when she stepped outside her home. "Many days I don't go outside because of the stench from hog waste that ends up in my pond," she says.

Matched up against a team of corporate attorneys, Martin successfully negotiated a settlement in August calling for Whitaker & Sons to clean up its operations and pay the defendants \$100,000 in damages.

"We teach our children that if they make a mess, they ought to clean it up," says Griffin. "This agreement ensures that the Whitaker operation will be held to that same standard of responsibility."



Ohio Swim

Strokes for Clean Water: Acclaimed long-distance swimmer Lynne Cox, left, and four Cincinnati-area residents, ride back after swimming across the Ohio River to protest a plan to allow more raw sewage in the water.



Lost Coast Adopted

Get Lost and Stay Lost: Among the areas protected by the Northern California Wild Heritage Act of 2006 are parts of California's Lost Coast, above, containing the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the Lower 48. The bill protects more than 275,000 acres of federal roadless lands as wilderness.

More Sewage in the Ohio? No Thanks.

In May, the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), charged with protecting water quality in the Ohio, issued a proposal to allow more fecal coliform—raw sewage—to be released into the river, which supplies more than 3 million people with drinking water.

Eight Sierra Club chapters, the Club's Water Sentinels program, and a coalition of community groups fought back with an unprecedented barrage of public comments, a challenge of the science behind the proposal, even a swim across the Ohio at Cincinnati, where hundreds of people joined acclaimed long-distance swimmer Lynne Cox to protest the commission's plan.

In October, ORSANCO bowed to public pressure and shelved its proposal.

"We organized fishermen, swimmers, and boaters against the plan," says North-

ern Kentucky Water Sentinel Tim Guilfoile, "but we also talked to businesses and companies who are investing millions along the Ohio—in condos, restaurants, aquariums, movie theaters, you name it. "If more raw sewage is allowed in the water, what's going to happen to their property values? It doesn't just threaten recreation; it threatens business investments and tourism revenues all up and down the Ohio."

Ohio Chapter Conservation Chair Marilyn Wall and Ohio organizers Christine Robertson and Becky McClatchey helped spearhead the Club effort, aided by a coalition of partner groups including Rivers Unlimited.

Guilfoile says that ORSANCO typically gets a dozen or so comments when they're thinking about changing a regulation, so the scale of the public opposition "completely overwhelmed them." The Club-led coalition generated more than 8,000 public

comments, nearly 6,000 written comments and 1,800 e-mail comments, and some 8,000 postcards opposing the proposal.

The Club also demonstrated that ORSANCO's proposal was based on invalid scientific data and shaky criteria. "They claimed no one used the river when the current exceeded two miles per hour, so it didn't matter if standards for human contact were lowered," says Wall. "That was not the case."

Guilfoile, who grew up swimming in the river ("I shudder to think this was before the Clean Water Act"), says water quality has improved dramatically over the last 20 years and that river communities are now focusing on the Ohio as an asset to community development as well as tourism. "Given the progress we've made, ORSANCO's plan was a giant step backwards."

More than 90 groups got involved in the campaign, says Water Sentinels Director Scott Dye. "It was Tim's idea to figure out who used the river and put a huge, broad, diverse coalition together."

'Adoption Plan' Boosts California Wilderness Bid

In October, Congress passed the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Act of 2006, designating more than 275,000 acres of federal roadless lands as wilderness. The bill creates several new wilderness areas, adds to existing ones, and establishes new Wild and Scenic River segments. Among the places protected are portions of California's fabled Lost Coast, containing the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the Lower 48.

The groundwork for the bill was laid seven years ago. Lynn Ryan, North Group Conservation Chair (Redwood Chapter), recalls the day in 1999 when she learned in the California Wilderness Coalition newsletter of the effort to inventory all roadless Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands in California to begin the process of passing a California wilderness bill in Congress. (Sierra Club California, eleven Club chapters, a dozen groups, and several committees are active members of the coalition.)

California Senator Barbara Boxer, the bill's Senate sponsor, told activists that each area being considered for wilderness designation needed to be "adopted" by a group or individual, who should then build support for that area. "I learned how to inventory boundaries, how to draw little dirt roads on maps, how to talk not just to hikers, but to hunters and ranchers about my survey," Ryan says. "We pored over maps and spoke with neighboring landowners, explaining that wilderness

[MORE ON P. 9]



NOV. 1996 ■ DEC. 1999

JAN./FEB. 2000

Wild Utah, Wild Forests:

In September 1996, two days after Clinton announces the creation of the 1.7-million-acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah, the Club's board of directors endorses him for president. The new national monument in Utah comes after almost two decades of work by Club activists like Jim Catlin, Rudy Lukez, Lawson LeGate, and Vicky Hoover, who not only pressed public officials for its protection, but went out to the land with compasses and pencils and helped map proposed wilderness areas. 1999's biggest victory comes late in the year, when the Clinton administration announces its plan to protect nearly 60 million acres of roadless wildlands in the national forests.

Teamsters Love Turtles, Turtles Love Teamsters:

A nascent coalition of labor, environmental, and human-rights activists, church groups, students, and others comes of age in Seattle protesting the World Trade Organization. Among them is a crowd of Teamsters and demonstrators dressed as sea turtles, who strike up a call-and-response chant: "Teamsters love turtles," then "Turtles love Teamsters."



Smart Energy SOLUTIONS

Americans agree...
Global warming is a growing problem...
But it's a problem we can solve...
If we act now.



We are all part of the solution.

Be part of the solution.



We have at most ten years—
says NASA climatologist James Hansen.

“—not ten years to decide upon action, but ten years to fundamentally alter the trajectory of global greenhouse emissions.”



Reversing global warming may be the most difficult thing we've ever done...

It will also be the thing we'll be most proud of.



Remember, we're the people who cured polio, ended segregation, put a man on the moon...



Smart Energy SOLUTIONS

“Smart Energy Solutions,” an adaptation of a PowerPoint slide show originally delivered by Sierra Club President Lisa Renstrom to the board of directors, is available for Club leaders to download and deliver in their communities. See clubhouse.sierraclub.org/energyslideshow/.

Smart Energy SOLUTIONS

Let's take a look at three scenarios of how things might unfold over the next 50 years.

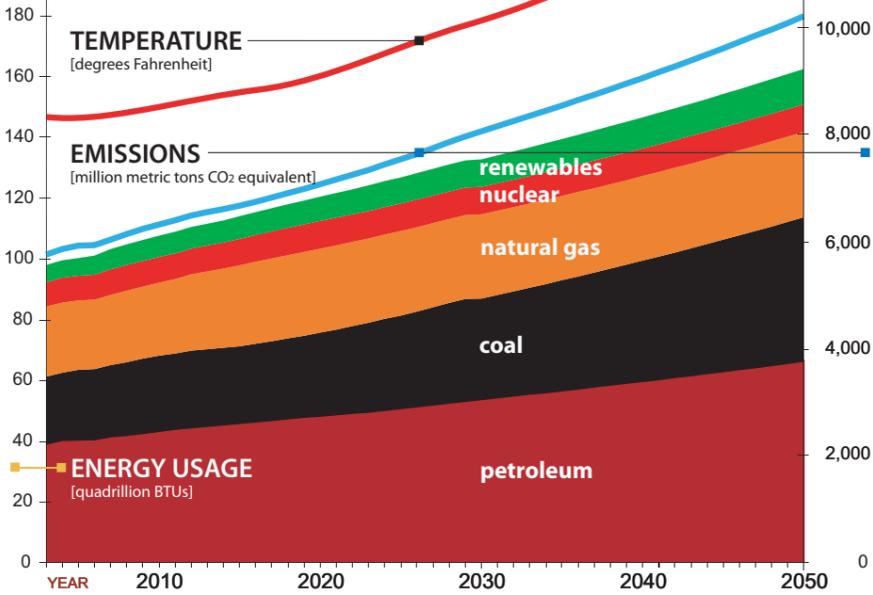
4

'Business as Usual' is not an option.

This scenario is exactly what it sounds like. We don't make any serious commitment to reducing our emissions or moving beyond a fossil fuel economy.

We burn more—not less—oil, coal, and natural gas.

That translates into more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. And higher global temperatures.



As you all know, to bring the temperature down, we have to reduce emissions, and that means changing the mix of fuels.

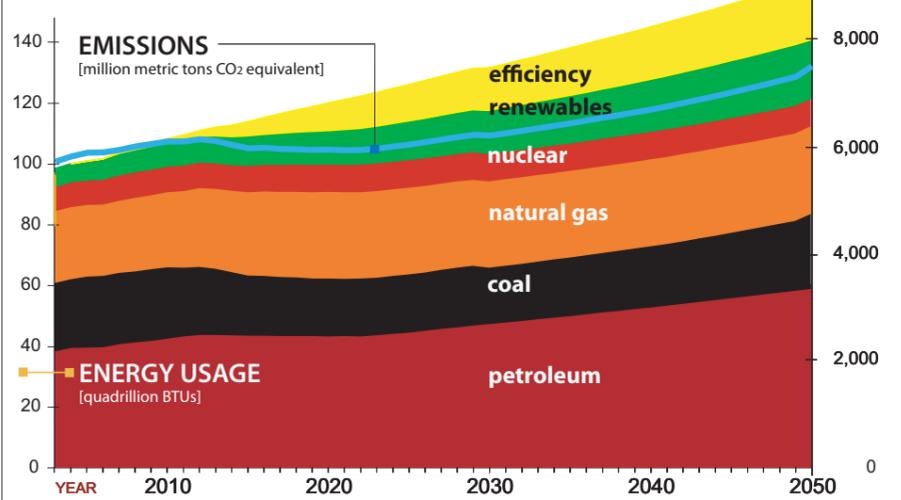
5

Better, but not enough

So here's a second scenario—"Current Best Practices." Here, we take the best things that some people are doing right now and apply them across the board.

We assume in this scenario that Congress finally passes moderate global warming and auto fuel economy legislation. We also assume that subsidies are leveled out. Instead of fossil fuels getting far more subsidies than renewables, they're given equal amounts.

You can see we have more yellow and green here. But the expansion of renewables and efficiency is just enough to meet the increased demand for energy as our economy grows. We continue to use more fossil fuels instead of less.



Carbon emissions rise, but more slowly. As does global temperature. And the reason emissions rise more slowly is because efficiency and renewables don't generate emissions.

10

We start with efficiency...

...the easiest and most cost-effective source of energy.

You wouldn't turn your furnace on and leave your windows wide open.

But there are cracks and leaks and opportunities to increase efficiency in every building in America.

If we squeezed out every ounce of efficiency possible, we could save at least 30 percent of our energy. Most likely more.

That's like saving all the energy used in the 17 Western states.



11

For example, in 1975, Congress enacted a law doubling the fuel economy of new vehicles.

The nation saves 3 million barrels of oil a day as a result, making it the most successful energy-saving measure ever adopted.

But we could save 3 million *more* barrels of oil a day if U.S. vehicles averaged 40 miles per gallon.



Raising fuel economy to 40 mpg can save 3 million barrels of oil a day.

Weatherizing homes is another way of saving energy.

For example, in Lansing, Michigan, the city helps low-income residents button up their houses for winter, with insulation, storm windows, caulking, weatherstripping, and water heater jackets.

All over the country, utilities, governments, and community groups offer such services, but expanding such programs could save more energy, provide more jobs, and improve the living conditions of millions more Americans.

12

We also need to harness the power of the wind, sun, oceans, and plants—

our renewable sources for both fuel and electricity.

We know, however, that it will take time to develop these new technologies, to change business and government practices...

...so we will need to use transitional fuels as a bridge to our efficiency-and-renewables future.

That may mean we use more ethanol than we like. It may mean continuing to drill existing oil leases, continuing to burn coal...



15

All across the country, our neighbors are making changes that are helping them kick the oil habit and save money.

In Santa Cruz, California, Ralph Maltese and Sheila Peck installed an array of solar panels and their electric bill has dropped from \$900 a year to about \$100.



BEATRIZ HERRERA

16

Wind powers the schools.



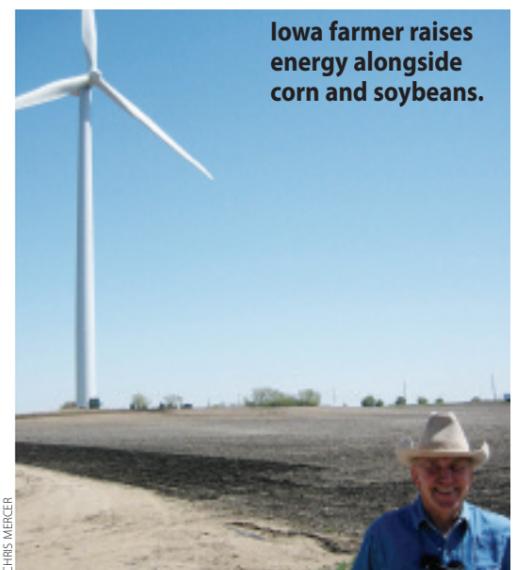
SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

In 1993, Iowa's Spirit Lake Community School District installed its first wind turbine, then after it paid for itself, put in a second one.

The new one has almost paid for itself and starting next year, it will turn a profit that goes to the schools.

Inspired by the school district, local farmer Paul Neblitz installed his first turbine last year and plans to build ten more, producing energy along with his corn and soybeans.

Utilities are embracing wind power as well. Southern California Edison's wind farm near Palm Springs has more than 4,000 turbines.



CHRIS MERCER

Iowa farmer raises energy alongside corn and soybeans.

6

'America Leads'

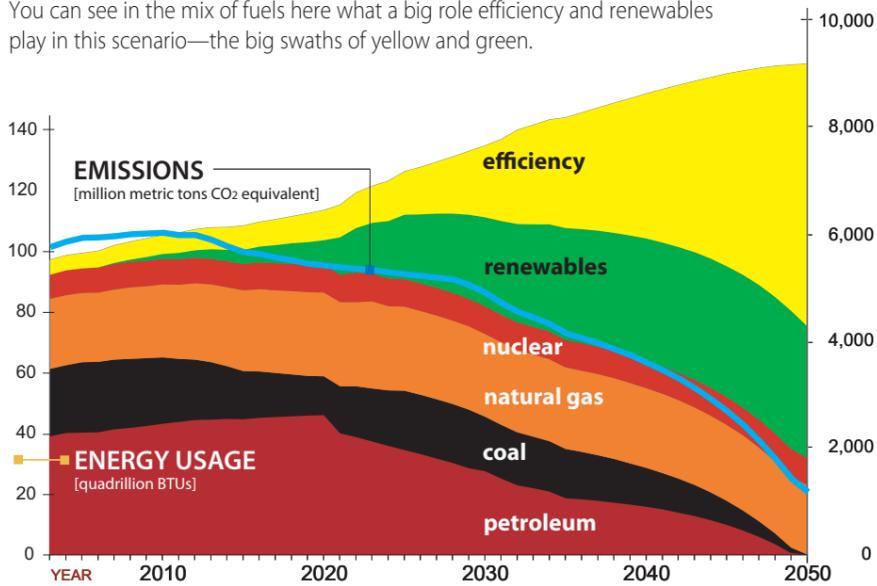
Let's look now at a scenario that actually gets us to where we need to go—"America Leads."

Here, we act with the urgency the crisis warrants. We approach global warming with a single, intense focus of resources and talent—like the Manhattan Project. We move away from fossil fuels toward a highly efficient economy based on sustainable, renewable sources.

Investment in research and development kicks in and technological breakthroughs and rapid advances become the norm. Just like computers have doubled in speed over and over again, now we see the same leap in energy efficiency and renewables.

In this scenario, more subsidies go to renewables. We get pricing right. The high cost of pollution gets reflected in the price consumers pay for energy. Renewables, therefore, cost a lot less than fossil fuels. Change happens fast.

You can see in the mix of fuels here what a big role efficiency and renewables play in this scenario—the big swaths of yellow and green.



This is the only vision that dramatically reduces our carbon dioxide emissions, because efficiency and renewables, a much larger part of the fuel mix, don't generate any.

7

If we cut emissions 2 percent a year for the next 40 years, we can get there.

NREL



That won't be easy, but it's certainly doable. In 2001, after California experienced power shortages and actively promoted efficiency and conservation, the state achieved 6 percent savings in electricity in one year.

Another example: IBM reported reducing carbon emissions by an average of 6.4 percent annually between 2000 and 2004, through energy conservation programs and purchase of renewable energy.

8



'America Leads' also means millions of good-paying jobs.

NREL

Changing how we produce and consume energy won't just stabilize our climate, but will also save money, clean up our air and water, make us safer and less dependent on foreign oil, and provide jobs for American workers. According to the Apollo Alliance, investing in modernizing and increasing efficiency in the manufacturing sector alone would create 742,000 new jobs.

9

There are no silver bullets.

It will take a mix of solutions to meet our energy needs and cut the amount of carbon we're putting in the air.

In the "America Leads" scenario, fossil fuel use goes down—you can see all the yellow and green—representing efficiency and renewables, because we actively pursue that strategy. Those are our primary solutions.

13

Cool Cities

Some of the hard work we need to do has already started...

This is a map of what the Sierra Club calls "Cool Cities."

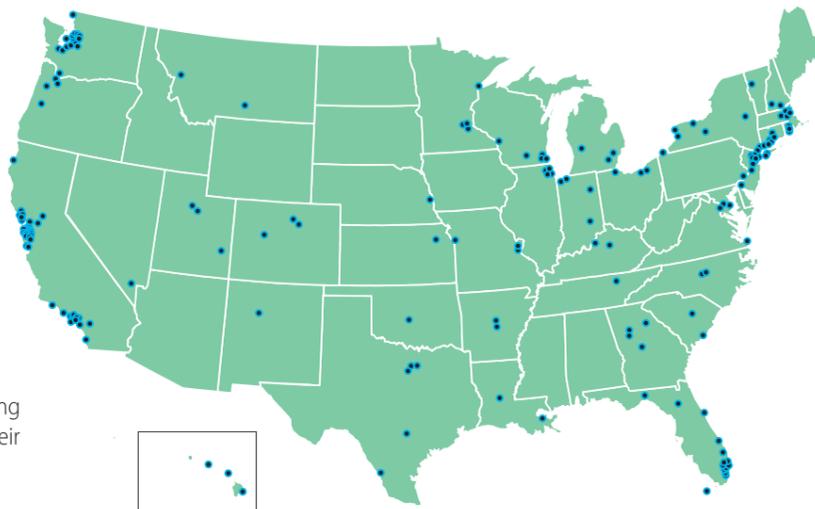
Almost 300 mayors have signed onto the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to cut global warming emissions.

The Sierra Club is working in more than a hundred of these cities, helping them to increase the efficiency of their municipal buildings, auto fleets, and lighting and transportation services.

Arguably no city is cooler than Seattle,

whose mayor, Greg Nickels, launched the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement.

Seattle has converted its city fleet to hybrids, runs its heavy trucks on biodiesel, and has one of the strongest green building programs in the nation.



Seattle City Light is the first major electric utility to achieve zero net global warming emissions.



In fact, some cruise ships that dock on the Seattle waterfront now plug into City Light for their electricity so they can cut their engines and reduce emissions.

14

States are taking action, too.

Twelve states have clean car laws. Twenty-two states have adopted a renewable portfolio standard, which means the state is required to produce a specific percentage of electricity from renewables.

And last August, the California legislature and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger agreed to a 25 percent cut in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020, the most ambitious plan in the nation.

Businesses are also part of the solution.

For example, Alberici Constructors, one of the nation's largest construction companies, recently built a new headquarters in Overland, Missouri, that earned the platinum rating in environmental design.

An onsite wind turbine supplies 20 percent of its electricity. The building takes advantage of natural daylight, minimizing the need for indoor lighting, uses a passive solar preheat system for heating the building's water, and even captures 100 percent of the rainwater that falls on its one-acre roof for use in the building's toilets and urinals.

Alberici's headquarters, below, is 60 percent more efficient than a conventional building.



DEBBIE FRANK

17

As consumers, we can all take individual action.

Consider yourself, then multiply that by your street, your neighborhood, your city, your state, the country. Here are some things you can do.

Transportation consumes 30 percent of our energy.

So make your next car a hybrid.

Last year, the Kohring family of St. Louis donated their family's gas-guzzling SUV to the Boy Scouts and purchased a 50 mile-per-gallon hybrid. With four kids and a dog—were they crazy? "We realized that we didn't need such a big vehicle for daily trips," says Maria Kohring. Since switching vehicles, they estimate that they save about \$130 a month at the gas pump. "But what matters even more to us," she says, "is how much less global warming pollution we're producing by driving a fuel-efficient vehicle."



MARIA KOHRING

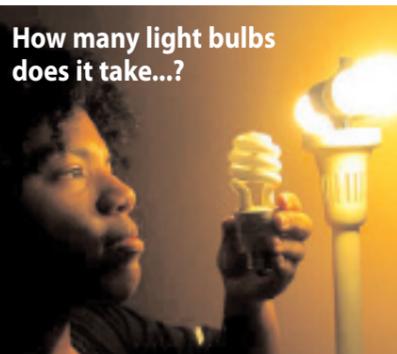
18

Making your house energy efficient is another important step.

Of course, one of the easiest ways to reduce energy is not to use it in the first place. Conserving energy has been characterized as "freezing in the dark," but there are plenty of comfortable ways to conserve without sacrificing comfort. For example, one of the easiest ways is to turn down your thermostat at night. According to the Department of Energy, for each degree you lower your thermostat in winter, you save 3 percent on your heating bill.

19

How many light bulbs does it take...?



If every American household changed five bulbs to compact fluorescents, global warming emissions would be cut by 1 trillion pounds a year—the equivalent of 8 million cars.

The green room

You don't have to be a homeowner to make a difference.

Last fall, UC Berkeley sophomore Rachael Robertson moved into the "green room" in her dorm, and though she had many of the same things other students had, she used 35 percent less energy—due to an energy-efficient refrigerator, compact fluorescent lights, even an Energy Star television. (Televisions in standby mode can use as much energy when they're off as when they're on.)



LOHNI EAKES

Citizen power

As consumers, we can set an example and create a demand in the marketplace, but even more important is our role as citizens demanding that government and industry take action on a large scale.

You and I can drive our fuel-efficient cars and take public transportation, and be part of the solution, but to really change our energy equation, we need the federal government to raise fuel economy standards to 40 miles per gallon and the auto manufacturers to build all their cars to get maximum fuel economy.

So we need to be catalysts for political change, to hold representatives accountable for their actions...

And if you can't find responsible leadership...

Then run for office yourself.

Seriously. (You've seen some of the candidates we have to choose from.)



Consider what energy is required to produce what you buy and use, and how that can be reduced.



ANNE HAMERSKY

You can find more ways to save energy at sierraclub.org/smartenergy—but the first step is to think.

For example, eating locally grown food will save energy. The food you eat travels, on average, 1,500 miles from the field to your plate. Eating food grown close to home means burning less fossil fuel.

One way to get a sense of how much carbon dioxide you personally generate is to use a "carbon calculator" to find your "footprint." You can find a link to one at sierraclub.org/smartenergy/. It's really all about awareness of the energy you use and the consequences it has.

Taking the temperature of the mall.

If you've already turned down your thermostat at home, maybe what you do next is urge others to follow your lead. Where you work. Where you shop.

That's what Frank Zaski, a retired Chrysler market researcher from Michigan, did last winter. He took a thermometer to malls in the Detroit area, recorded temperatures, usually in the low 70s, and then urged the mall manager to turn down the heat. "After all," he says, "most people were walking around in winter coats."

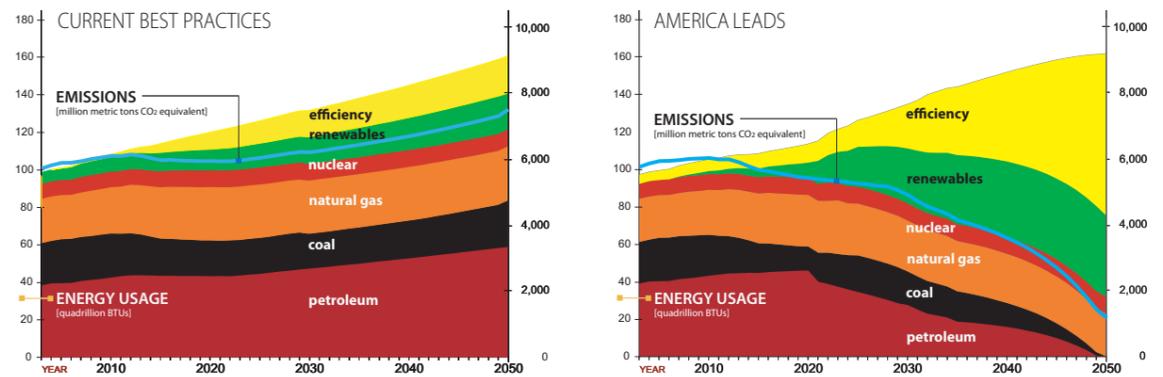


LEIGH FIELSKI

Where we need to go

Let's take another look at the "Current Best Practices" and "America Leads" scenarios.

As you can see, in the "Current Best Practices" scenario, we make steady increases in efficiency and renewables. And in "America Leads," big jumps.



We can make that happen. **American ingenuity, unleashed**, can build cars that get a hundred miles per gallon, can make energy from wind, solar, and plants to power millions of homes, can build houses and buildings in orientation to the sun and use only a small fraction of the energy today's buildings do. We can set a course that transcends politics and reaches across generations. If we cut emissions 2 percent a year for the next 40 years, we can get there.



But what about China and India?

Skeptics say, why bother reducing emissions when China and India can negate any gain as they build more coal-fired power plants?

Well, that's why we're promoting the "America Leads" scenario—by setting an example and developing new technologies, we can make it more likely that developing nations will leapfrog over the fossil-fuel-based industrial model into an energy system based on renewables. (In the same way that for many Chinese, their first phone was wireless. They jumped right past landline technology.)

In fact, China has launched a campaign to get 15 percent of its energy from renewables by 2020, and in rural areas in Xinjiang Province, some of China's poorest families are getting electricity for the first time from solar panels perched atop their yurts.



One last thing about China. Want to guess what the miles-per-gallon standards for China are? Let me give you a hint. It's higher than U.S. standards. In July 2005, China required new vehicles to get, on average, 33 miles to the gallon, and in 2008, 36 miles per gallon.

The world looks to America for leadership—and America can lead...

But the only way to get America to lead is for us to lead...

We all have a role to play, everyday.

To get involved, contact your local chapter. You can find contact information at sierraclub.org/my_backyard/.

To learn more about energy, go to sierraclub.org/energy/.

To find out how you can deliver the "Smart Energy Solutions" slide show in your community, go to clubhouse.sierraclub.org/energyslideshow/.



Join us. Be part of the solution.

Victories

[FROM P. 4]

would keep things as they are, with no new roads, grazing permits, or mining claims, but they could still graze cattle and fight fires like they do now, while preserving wildlife habitat and clean water.”

Recruiting Humboldt State University students to join her, Ryan surveyed her adopted area and solicited letters of support from businesses and elected officials in Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. “We went on lots of hikes, searched for old trailheads, fixed flat tires, pulled each other out of ditches and back up on ridges, got lost and found, slept under the stars in the middle of nowhere and listened to mountain lions screaming in the night, and laughed a lot,” she recalls.

Coalition members worked with Northern California Congressman Mike Thompson to introduce a bill in the House of Representatives, answered tough questions from Senator Dianne Feinstein to gain her endorsement, dogged Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger for his nod of approval, and obtained letters of support from every county supervisor in Humboldt County. In a remarkable show of support, 21 of the 24 county supervisors in the five California counties encompassed by the bill went on record favoring it.

Florida Wetlands Win

To understand why activists in the Northeast Florida Group are all so high on their successful campaign to protect a sensitive wetland, you need to know about the low point in their battle—about the potatoes, the pine forest, and the proposed six-lane freeway.

The tale started in October 2000 when developers for the Goodman Company proposed filling that Jacksonville, Florida, wetland with a WalMart and apartment complex. The company’s existing Freedom Commerce Centre office complex surrounds 604 acres of mature forested wetlands, the headwaters of Julington and Pottsbury creeks, which flow into the St. Johns River, a designated American Heritage River. The company applied for a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit to fill and develop 245 acres of the wetland.

The Sierra Club, Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries hit the Army Corps with a barrage of objections; the Corps sat on Goodman’s request.

The next few years saw our heroes tangling with both federal and state agencies, as well as some regional regulators, all of whom had some kind of jurisdiction over the property and its use. There were decisions, appeals, and a ruling made by an administrative law judge, as well as educational meetings, letter-writing campaigns, and rallies.

The worst of it came in January 2005 when the St. Johns River Water Management District approved a permit for the destruction of state-regulated wetlands. To make up for the wetland destruction, the district said, the Goodman Company would reforest an abandoned potato field and restore a planted pine tract to wetlands—both in another county.

“It was unbelievable enough that the mitigation was in another county,” says Linda Bremer, conservation chair for the Northeast Florida Group. “But what the district wasn’t aware of, and didn’t learn about until it came out in the newspaper, was that there were plans to run a six-lane freeway through the same pine plantation Goodman was supposed to restore.”



Still Roadless: The Club’s New Hampshire Chapter and Environmental Law Program teamed up to beat back a proposed 500-acre Forest Service logging project in the Than Brook area of the White Mountain National Forest, above. The Wild River Roadless Area, which includes Than Brook, is the largest national forest inventoried roadless area east of the Rockies



Peninsula Stays Green: The Rappahannock Group in Virginia won a 5-year campaign to establish Widewater State Park, above, on an 1,100-acre peninsula on the Potomac River that had been targeted for hundreds of condos and a resort/conference center.

The state water regulators, a little bruised by the revelation, declared the freeway “speculative.”

The plan garnered another flood of objections from the Sierra Club and its partner the St. Johns Riverkeeper, and everyone they could educate and motivate to take action, including neighborhood groups and garden clubs.

“They got over 300 very angry letters,” Bremer says.

Finally, bowing to public pressure, the company applied for an Army Corps permit to fill just 35 acres of



Not Just Bluffing: More than 5,000 acres of Theodore Roosevelt’s historic ranch in North Dakota, above, were added to the Little Missouri National Grasslands thanks to a 5-year campaign by the Dacotah Chapter.

wetlands instead of the original 245. In May 2006 the federal permit was issued. And in September 2006 the water management district agreed to purchase conservation easements which, when all is said and done, will mean that 579 acres are now safe from development. The 35 acres approved for destruction by the Army Corps is the last vulnerable acreage.

“We’re absolutely going to keep fighting to protect those 35 acres,” says Bremer. “We’re relentless. Everywhere we go, we ask people to protect it. We’re celebrating that we’ve gone from 245 acres to 35 that are still vulnerable, but we will not give up on that last bit of land.”

—JENNY COYLE

Teddy Roosevelt’s Ranch Protected

In August, the Dacotah Chapter won its 5-year campaign to protect President Theodore Roosevelt’s historic Elkhorn Ranch in North Dakota when the U.S. Forest Service purchased 5,200 acres of rugged badlands from a retiring local ranching family. The acreage will be added to the Little Missouri National Grasslands.

“These badlands are one of those hidden treasures that most people don’t have a clue even exists,” says North Dakota Sierra Club organizer Wayde Schafer. “This was an opportunity to honor Teddy Roosevelt’s legacy and preserve a piece of his beloved North Dakota Badlands for future generations.”

Roosevelt’s cabin site was already protected by the National Park Service, but the surrounding buttes and grasslands where he grazed his cattle, hunted, and developed his conservation ethic were in private ownership. The Eberts ranch property, once part of Roosevelt’s cattle ranch, is directly across the Little Missouri River from the original Elkhorn Ranch cabin. Roosevelt often sat on his front porch and wrote of the spectacular view of the high bluffs across the river.

“Five years ago, as a new Sierra Club member, I was on a Club outing in these badlands,” says Dacotah Chapter activist Carol Jean Larsen. “We stood on a grassy plateau on the Eberts ranch overlooking the Little Missouri River and Roosevelt’s ranch site in the cottonwoods beyond. A passionate national park superintendent read from Roosevelt’s journals, and I was awed to find myself looking at the same rugged beauty he described. On that day I made a quiet commitment to help protect this wild place.”

For the next five years, Larsen answered every Dacotah Chapter call to action, writing and calling the governor, the North Dakota congressional delegation, and the Forest Service, organizing speaking engagements, and submitting letters-to-the-editor to local newspapers. “And, of course, I hustled up my neighbors to do the same.”

Real estate developers wanted to build trophy homes along the bluffs overlooking the river, and neighboring ranchers wanted to add portions of the Eberts property to their own ranches. Schafer says a strong anti-public land sentiment persists in the region, and the Eberts deserve enormous credit for “hanging in there in the face of tremendous opposition from their neighbors.” Sierra Club members wrote personal letters of support to the family, and Schafer and others spoke with them almost weekly.

“So many Sierra Club volunteers answered the call to take action over and over again,” Larsen says. “But it all started with the Eberts’ belief that wild places matter.”

For more, see sierraclub.org/grassroots



◀ MAY 2001

JAN./FEB. 2002 ■ APRIL/MAY 2002 ▶▶

March Madness:

Soon after taking office, President Bush reverses his campaign promise to cut carbon dioxide emissions. Then the administration suspends the roadless rule, pulls back a rule that would reduce arsenic levels in drinking water, and pushes for more oil drilling in new national monuments. And it’s only mid-March.

Is Everything Different?

After 9/11, the pundits said things would never be the same. But by the end of 2001, the environmental debate in the nation’s capital looks pretty much like it did on September 10. The administration promotes the same non-solutions as before, repackaged in national security rhetoric.

Energy Bills Gets Ugly:

Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle introduces an energy bill in early 2002 that includes raising fuel economy standards and support for renewable energy. A month later, it looks like the same fossil-fuel-friendly plan the Bush administration proposed a year earlier. In April, 54 senators vote against Arctic drilling, but then pass an energy bill that calls for billions in subsidies to the coal, oil, and nuclear industries.



Sierra Club Scrapbook



BECH CLAYBORN



ADRIAN VAN DELLEN



JOHN CALAWAY



JIM DOUGHERTY



ERIC ANTHONY



ERIC ANTHONY

Time to Celebrate: **1** A month before her ascension to Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi joins the celebration of longtime Club leader Dr. Edgar Wayburn's 100th birthday. **2** Twelve past and current Sierra Club presidents gather at a second Wayburn birthday bash. **3** In June, Club Executive Director Carl Pope and Board member Joni Bosh present Deputy Field Director Larry Mehlhaff the John Muir Award, the Club's highest honor, at his Salt Lake City home a week before his death from brain cancer. **4** In November, actress Jennifer Garner fires up volunteers to go knock on doors in Pleasanton, California, in support of Jerry McNerney's challenge of Richard Pombo. **5** Anthony Wasserman from Chicago, gets a few locks clipped as part of the Illinois Chapter's mercury hair testing program. **6** "First Light on the Neches," by Texas volunteer Adrian Van Dellen (see p. 12).



◀ JAN./FEB. 2004

DEC. 2004 ■ JAN./FEB. 2005 ▶▶

What Your President Won't Tell You and Your Neighbors Need to Know:

"The Bush administration is dismantling three decades of environmental progress," says Sierra Club President Larry Fahn, "and most Americans don't even know it's happening." The solution: talking. Americans are bombarded by an estimated 60,000 messages, ads, signs, and e-mails a week. One of the few sources that can cut through the clutter is personal contact—talking with friends, family, and neighbors.

Fear Trumps Hope:

Despite talking to more voters, mobilizing more volunteers, and forging more partnerships than ever before, the Sierra Club fails to stop the radical right's march into power, and Bush wins a second term. Club Executive Director Carl Pope cites the words written by Thomas Paine—"These are times that try men's souls"—just a few weeks before George Washington's army struck back and defeated the British at Trenton and Princeton.



Planet Swan Song

[FROM P. 1]

Since those first months, I have talked on the phone and met many *Planet* readers, as well as many of the admirable leaders and activists whose stories have appeared in these pages. What has resonated most for me has been how the Club's strength derives from the tens of thousands of active members who devote part of their lives to bettering the environment for the rest of us, and for our children and grandchildren and more.

In our first issue, we led with a story headlined, "Ronald Reagan's Revenge," about how the takings movement was threatening to undermine environmental protection. Just this month, more than a dozen years after that first issue, California voters rejected a takings initiative strongly opposed by the Sierra Club. Times change. But the threats keep on coming.

We've made big strides in awareness, however. In our third issue, we called on then-President Bill Clinton to act decisively on global warming. At the time, most Americans didn't know what global warming was. Most Sierra Club members didn't either.

We launched the *Planet* in July 1994 as part of an effort to reinvigorate the Club's grassroots base as well as meet financial challenges. We are sunseting the *Planet* for some of the same reasons.

More and more of our activist work has migrated to the e-mail and Web arena. These communications vehicles allow us to save money, save trees, and talk with our leaders in a more timely and targeted way.

Over the years, we have been heartened by readers' support for the *Planet*. "The *Planet* has been a great vehicle to give voice to the work of Sierra Club leaders," says Mississippi Chapter Chair Becky Gillette. "I've personally seen that have a big impact on activists here, particularly with the DuPont campaigns."

"The *Planet* does such a good job of highlighting the work of our volunteers," says Alabama field staffer Peggie Griffin. "It's always a 'star in your crown' to get mentioned in the *Planet*, the national Sierra Club's most personal publication."

We're repackaging our stories and photos of grassroots activism in **Sierra Club Grassroots** at sierraclub.org/grassroots/.

Grassroots will include weekly reporting on grassroots victories, innovative campaigns, provocative coalitions. See our roundup of victories starting on page 2 for examples.

We'll also be posting in Grassroots daily updates in **Sierra Club Scrapbook**. Scrapbook is exactly what it sounds like—photos of Club activists at a rally, excerpts from newspaper stories quoting a Club spokesperson, and imaginative outreach

efforts. You can see a sampling at left.

We'll also gather hundreds of "Who We Are" profiles from the *Planet*, as well as similar profiles from *Sierra* and chapter and group newsletters and Web sites, in **Faces of the Sierra Club**. We'll add at least one new profile every month. See page 12.

For links to Grassroots features, as well as the latest environmental news, green living tips, and more, sign up for the twice-monthly **Sierra Club Insider** at sierraclub.org/insider/.

If you'd like to get more involved as a volunteer, visit **Clubhouse**—our Web site for volunteer leaders—at clubhouse.sierraclub.org/. You can sign up there for the twice-monthly Clubhouse e-mails, which combine inspiring stories of activism along with tools and resources.

So enjoy this last hurrah of the *Planet*. It's all good news. And keep in touch.

[john.barry@sierraclub.org]

P.S. I'd also like to thank all those Club staff and volunteers who have contributed stories to the *Planet* over the years. There are so many I have to reduce the type size to fit them, but I'm sure I still missed a few:

Chris Ballantyne, Mary-Beth Baptista, Dan Becker, B.J. Bergman, Rebecca Bernard, Bob Bingaman, Shepherd Bliss, Larry Bohlen, Julian Bond, Barb Boyle, Merrick Bush, Nick Cain, Paula Carrell, Ralph Clark, Sarah Clusen, Johanna Congleton, Bill Corcoran, Sean Cosgrove, Orli Cotel, Robbie Cox, Bill Craven, David Danzig, John DeCock, Karin Derichsweiler, Aloma Dew, Dominique Dibbel, Marie Dolcini, Scott Dye, David Edeli, Henry Egghart, Kyra Epstein, Larry Fahn, Sarah Fallon, Laura Fauth, Camilla Feibelman, Jennifer Ferenstein, Dave Foreman, Wayne Freeman, Jean Freedberg, Becky Gillette, Melanie Griffin, Kim Haddow, Bruce Hamilton, Marge Hanselman, Melinda Harm, Sarah Heim-Jonson, Ananda Hirsch, Susan Holmes, Joan Jones Holtz, John Holtzclaw, Raena Honan, Glen Hooks, Vicky Hoover, Ed Hopkins, Kathryn Hohmann, Lisa Hudson, Brett Hulsey, Jen Jackson, Pat Joseph, Dave Karpf, Sarah Kelch, Craig Kelley, Mary Kiesau, Kurt Koepsel, Caroline Kraus, Judy Kunofsky, John Lawrence, Alex Levinson, Sherman Lewis, Lawson LeGate, Tim Lesle, Traci Liard, Li Miao Lovett, Michael Lynch, John Lyons-Gould, Robin Mann, Mark Mardon, Mari Margil, Drusha Mayhue, Ellen Mayou, Mike McCloskey, Emily McFarland, Melissa Meiris, Ken Midkiff, Lillian Miller, Louie Miller, Stephen Mills, Bill Morris, Dave Muhly, Mike Newman, Eric Olson, Liz Palatto, Sam Parry, Steve Pedery, Christine Phillips, Carl Pope, Alejandro Qeral, Margrete Strand Rangnes, Julia Reitan, John Rosapepe, Zachary Roth, Preston Schiller, Dan Seligman, Debbie Sease, Gayle Sheehan, Ryan Silva, Daniel Silverman, Marilyn Berlin Snell, Sonny Sorensen, George Sorvallis, Becky Steckler, John Stauffer, Rose Strickland, Dan Sullivan, Kim Todd, Tanya Tolchin, Brian Vanne-man, Pat Veitch, Edgar Wayburn, Marceline White, Delbert Williams, Larry Williams, Alita Wilson, Amy Wilson, Julie and Larry Winslett, Anne Woiwode, Mark Woodall, Dan York, Carl Zichella, Jon Zilber.

And special thanks to Tom Valtin and Jenny Coyle, whose reporting and writing celebrating Club activists have given the *Planet* its heart and soul.



Waving and Wading: **7** Fifth-grade students from John Muir Elementary School in Seattle enjoy a week on Bainbridge Island as part of the Sierra Club's Building Bridges to the Outdoors Project. **8** Water Sentinels volunteers Sharmili Sampath and Jack Randall collect water samples in Gunpowder Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River in northern Kentucky. **9** New City, New York, Eagle Scout Danny Israel, standing next to his demonstration rain garden in Rockland County, is helping spur a commitment from the Club's Lower Hudson Group to build rain gardens to filter pollution from stormwater runoff. **10** Whitman College student Juliana Williams, who helped persuade her college administration to purchase 20 percent of its energy from renewable energy resources, receives the Joseph Barbosa Award from Club President Lisa Renstrom at the Annual Meeting.

For more, see sierraclub.org/grassroots/scrapbook/.



NOV./DEC. 2005 JAN./FEB. 2006

NOV./DEC. 2006

Democracy Breaks Out:

Former Vice President Al Gore kicked off Sierra Summit, a gathering in San Francisco of thousands of Sierra Club leaders, with a powerful speech wrapped around the Biblical theme, "When there is no vision, the people perish," and urging Club members to make fighting global warming a "moral cause." Gore had originally been scheduled to speak to insurance commissioners in New Orleans on the weekend of the Summit, but the event was cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina, which underscored the Summit delegates' choice of Smart Energy Solutions as a grassroots top priority. Delegates also chose America's Wild Legacy and Safe and Healthy Communities as top priorities for the coming five years.

Green Day:

In the swan song issue of the *Planet*, we feature only good news. Fortunately, for a change, there's more of that than we have room for, starting with the best Election Day for environmentalists in recent memory. Never before have so many candidates run for office touting renewable energy. Never have so many wind turbines starred in political ads. Stay tuned for what happens next—at sierraclub.org/grassroots/.



who we are

BY TOM VALTIN

Art Armstrong—Medford, Oregon
Rogue Group Hike Leader

Art Armstrong hikes every Sunday in the Siskiyou Mountains or the Cascade Range near his southern Oregon home—on snowshoes when there’s snow in the high country. He estimates he’s led more than 500 hikes for the Club’s Rogue Group since 1995.



Now 76, Armstrong summited 14,162-foot Mt. Shasta at age 69. Then he did it again at 70, and again at 71. “The most important thing in life for me,” he says, “is not really to set goals, but just do what you like to do, in all facets of life.”

Born on the Isle of Man in the middle of the Irish Sea, Armstrong moved to Liverpool, England, at age 17, where he worked as a stone carver before emigrating to Canada in 1952. There he got a job with the Niagara Parks Commission, which operates the parks and public spaces along the Niagara River and at the falls. Seven years later he relocated to California, where he worked as a structural draftsman until his retirement in 1994.

All the while, he pursued his love of the outdoors. “I’ve cycled and hiked all my life,” he says. “I led hikes for the Loma Prieta Chapter (in California) for years before I even became a Sierra Club member. When a leader couldn’t make it, I’d be asked to fill in.”

When Armstrong retired to Oregon he was unfamiliar with the land, “so I researched about 60 different trails for a year before I started leading outings again.”

Armstrong says his credo is “to always be curious, be responsible for everything I do, and blame myself for the mistakes I make on my path of life. What really makes me tick is the enjoyment of life itself.”

Heather Anderson—Fresno, California
Tehipite Chapter Conservation Chair

Pasadena native Heather Anderson joined the Sierra Club in the 1950s, right around the time she began climbing mountains. “I was introduced to backpacking by my first husband,” she recalls happily. “Our honeymoon was a hiking trip in the Sierra Nevada, from Wolverton in Sequoia National Park, over Elizabeth Pass, and down into Kings Canyon. My husband didn’t always stay on the trail, so I was introduced to the joys of cross-country hiking. And when we had children, we took them with us.”



Wilderness has been Anderson’s driving passion ever since. And for more than 50

years, she has combined this with two other loves: teaching and painting. With an M.A. already in hand, she went on to earn a Ph.D. in Art Education from the University of Oregon, where her dissertation was teaching students about the environment through art.

In 1986, Anderson accepted a teaching job in the art department at Fresno State University, where “I always encouraged my students to do some sort of environmentally related project.” Her involvement with the Sierra Club grew as she rooted herself in her new adopted home, and she became Tehipite Chapter Chair in 1990. She volunteered as well with the San Joaquin River Conservation Trust, working with public school students. “They’d get bussed out to the river and I’d teach them awareness of the riparian environment and how to draw it: the wildlife, vegetation, and river. It is so important to get young people out into nature.”

Anderson has lately been collaborating with a local photographer, pairing photographs of the Sierra Nevada with her large-scale canvases. “These paintings are about my love affair with the Sierra and the natural world,” she says. “I like to paint the places we work to protect.”

Susan Ray—Norman, Oklahoma
Red Earth Group Membership Chair

Susan Ray says her environmental awareness took root while she was a graduate student in community counseling. “I was upset about political decisions being made about our public lands, and it dawned on me that it’s about going back to the grassroots and believing one person can make a difference. That’s what got me involved with the Sierra Club.”



Ray’s counseling skills and environmental interests have dovetailed in her work as an elementary school counselor. “We have an outdoor classroom, including a pond and garden, and I lead kids in something I call

Walking Wisdom. I ask them to look closely at the whole ecosystem, how each little thing is linked to everything else. It’s like planting a seed—you never know how far it will go.”

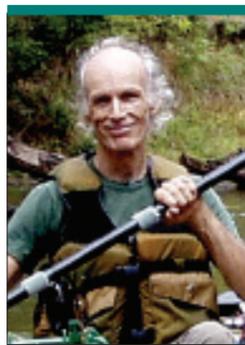
Environmental awareness should be a family commitment, Ray feels. “It’s important that we teach kids to enjoy nature and respect it, because with respect comes responsibility. We learn our values in childhood, and it’s difficult to change habits the older we get. We educate children in math, science, and reading, but the environment takes a back seat. Caring for the environment should be a family value.”

Ray was among the first responders to the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. “We felt the blast in the mental health center where I was working. Therapists were needed around the clock for two days at the bombing site; then I worked in a ‘compassion center’ where people were waiting for news about loved ones. The experience really opened my eyes—talk about not taking things for granted anymore. But you saw what a community can do when it really needs to. Each individual could contribute to the recovery effort, even if it was just a drawing from a child.”

Adrian Van Dellen—Woodville, Texas
Piney Woods Group River Conservation Advocate

“I grew up as a farm boy in northern Minnesota,” says Adrian Van Dellen. “My uncle farmed there, and my father moved there to become a farmer when I was seven.” After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1968 with a degree in veterinary medicine, he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he served for 23 years.

Van Dellen’s interest in the environment was kindled while stationed in South Africa. “I was fortunate enough to know the staff in Kruger National Park and do wildlife pathology there and at Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute. That experience really put me in touch with nature.”



For ten years Van Dellen taught and did clinical investigation at an Air Force hospital in San Antonio. In 1991 he retired to east Texas, where the Club’s Piney Woods Group had recently died out. “I was part of its re-founding in 2000,” he says. “I founded our newsletter, the *Warbler*, and I’ve stayed active ever since.”

Van Dellen is currently working on a second career as a nature photographer, focusing on east Texas’ Neches River. “I live right alongside the Neches, the only major free-flowing river left in Texas; between two dams, it flows free for 242 miles.” An avid kayaker, Van Dellen is collaborating on a paddling guide to the Neches. “Last winter I paddled 325 miles in 17 days, taking GPS coordinates and making photographs. Access is restricted by private land, and I’m looking for public access points and shuttle routes for day-long paddle segments.

“If I should be known for anything,” Van Dellen says, “it’s fighting for the right of every living creature to ample water. It’s a right, not a need. I’m fighting to keep the public’s water in the Commons.”

Verena Owen—Winthrop Harbor, Illinois
Illinois Chapter Air Campaign Chair

Verena Owen moved from her native Berlin to Wisconsin in 1984 when her husband took a science professorship at the University of Wisconsin. She holds a master’s in biology herself, but one of their children had a learning disability and Owen decided staying home to coach him through school was her top priority. “Now he’s in college,” she beams, “majoring in ecology.”

Owen joined the Sierra Club on moving to Illinois in 1991. “I wanted a connection with like-minded people,” she reflects. “I think



German society is a bit greener than here, although that may be changing.” Her first forays into activism were efforts to preserve trees and local wetlands. “I was a real NIMBY do-gooder,” she laughs. But her activism deepened after 1999 when new coal-fired power plants began appearing throughout Illinois, prompting her to speak out at public hearings. “I took the EPA literally that they wanted to hear from the public, meaning me,” she says.

In 2004, Owen was appointed to an EPA task force examining the operating permit program for major sources of air pollution. “We wrote a 300-page report for the EPA. I’m very proud of my wonky geeky permit work. It’s not sexy, but it’s important.” She now chairs the Sierra Club’s clean air campaign in Illinois. “When I go places and say I’m with the Sierra Club I don’t have to explain myself—people listen.”

Owen recently helped draft the Club’s Smart Energy Solutions conservation initiative. “This is really a new beginning for the Club,” she says. Owen and her husband Peter enjoy sailing on Lake Michigan and repairing to a vacation cabin in Wisconsin. “But I’m really a big city girl,” she says. “I like hiking, but I take my cell phone with me—in case of bears.”

Denis Thomopoulos—Los Angeles, California
Angeles Chapter member

When it comes to speaking out about the environment, Denis Thomopoulos lets his animals do the talking. His cartoon animals, that is. In 1998, he founded Hippo Works (www.hippoworks.com), an environmentally-themed online cartoon featuring Simon the Hippo and a host of other animal characters. Weekly episodes of “It’s a Jungle Out There” are syndicated to subscribers and Web sites such as AOL’s Kids Channel.

Thomopoulos drew his first hippo as an undergrad at Georgetown University, where he created a best-selling t-shirt. “I wasn’t thinking about becoming an artist,” he says. “I wanted to be a professor.” He earned a Masters in English Literature from Oxford University, but then went to work in London for David Puttnam, producer of *Local Hero* and *Chariots of Fire*.

“I grew up in the entertainment business,” he says, “so I moved back to Los Angeles to continue a career in film.” While visiting his mother, he saw a college drawing of a hippo, and in a “blinding revelation,” realized “my heart lay with the hippo.”

He got a job in corporate communications that offered him enough free time to develop Simon the Hippo and other characters. At work, he was responsible for “this new thing called a Web site” and colleagues suggested he put his characters online. Soon an educational company discovered his work and licensed and distributed it to schools. “Some friends say my cartoons could be a little scary for kids, with themes like global warming and animal extinction. But as much as I want to entertain kids, I think it’s important they confront reality.” He is now working on a global warming show to be broadcast next Earth Day.

