



LANCASTER NEWS

2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Newsletter for the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club

December 2016

Vol. 9, No. 1



In a Nutshell

Jan: Another fun Polar Bear Run/Hike to kick start the new year with fresh air and funds for local grants

Feb: Lancaster Conservancy Climber's Run Cleanup; Movie Night to watch *The Next Industrial Revolution*

Mar: Hand's Woods Cleanup; Presentation on the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline

Apr: Presentation on Wild Birds; Celebrating Earth Day at Sahd Metal Recycling and the Manheim Township Native Plants Festival; Green Grants awarded

May: Shenk's Ferry Wildflower Hike; Master Gardener Presentation on Rain Gardens

June: Appalachian Trail Hike & Camping

July: Governor Dick Hike & Ice Cream

Sept: Bike Ride showcasing energy sources; Presentation on Global Climate Change and the Choices You Make

Oct: Hand's Woods Cleanup; Meet & Greet with Christina Hartman; Donning penguins' "Happy Feet" in the Millersville Parade

Nov: Make & Take DIY Eco-Friendly Gifts; Outing to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Dec: Potluck and Fun!

As you can see, the Lancaster Group has once again been active on many fronts, from cleanups, to hikes, to political and conservation issues, and generally to having fun while working to make a difference in our community. Beyond the "nutshell," we have five business meetings per year, educational and outings committee meetings, Polar Bear Run/Hike meetings, and more. We invite you to join us as we work together to Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet.



Doing the Dab to Celebrate a Successful Hand's Woods Cleanup

For the last two years, Sierra Club - Lancaster Group has worked alongside Edward Hand Middle School and Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology to create an outdoor learning space to benefit students. Cleanups and building projects have transformed this once trash-ridden area to a welcoming environmental classroom, complete with centipedes and salamanders. But there is still work to be done on the Hand's Woods Restoration. SC members helped to write a grant, which has just been awarded by the Lancaster County Community Foundation, to develop a master plan that includes a trail system expansion. Follow the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group Facebook page for updates.

Sierra Club Plants Native Trees & Shrubs at Amos Herr Dream Park

Several of our members and other volunteers, led by Judy Davis of our Group, helped add finishing touches to the spectacular new playground at Amos Herr Dream Park in Landisville. They planted a variety of native trees and shrubs just outside the play area of this spacious and state-of-the-art facility, which was dedicated October 23.

The plantings, a donation valued at \$600 from our Group, include Redbud and Pagoda Dogwood Trees and New Jersey Tea, Black and Red Chokeberry, High Bush Blueberry and Southern Arrowroot Shrubs. Construction of the playground, a multi-year project, was made possible by the generosity of East Hempfield Township leaders and community members and spearheaded by very active volunteers, such as Judy. The playground, which includes a small covered bridge at its entrance, is custom designed and one-of-a-kind, based on many of the ideas contributed by children who live in the East Hempfield area.

Thank you to Judy and to everyone who helped! We hope you'll visit the park, enjoy the native plantings, and play!



Check out our ongoing event calendar at: www.lancastersierraclub.org



Sierra Club - Lancaster Group Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike Set for Jan. 14, 2017

One for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and **SEVEN** to go! Yes, you read that right, our **7th Annual Polar Bear 5K** (3.1 miles) Trail Run/Hike is now in the works and all runners and hikers, along with

their dogs on a leash, are welcome and encouraged to participate in this fun event—which, by the way, is our major fundraiser of the year. It'll be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, January 14, 2017, in the usual location: picturesque Lancaster County Central Park. Hard to believe that we've be doing this now for nigh unto seven years.

Some 270 runners and hikers registered for our 6th Annual race last January, scores of volunteers were also on hand, and 65 well-behaved dogs either ran or walked with their masters. The upcoming race will follow the same route as before, winding through the park on well-maintained trails with some hills. Race day registration and check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. in the park's Pavilion 22 (Kiwanis Lodge). Prizes will be awarded to the overall top three male and female runners. The top two runners in each age and gender category will also get prizes, while 3rd place finishers get a ribbon. And the first three finishers with dogs (any age group) will receive prizes.

The registration fee is \$25 (best deal) from now until December 21; \$30 after this date and until race day. T-shirts are guaranteed for all who register by Jan. 4. For registration forms and more details, please visit www.lancastersierraclub.org, email sierraclubevent@gmail.com, or "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublancaster> to learn more.

And don't forget: all money raised in this event supports local efforts to end global warming, the reason polar bears and other creatures are at risk of extinction. The income from this race will help subsidize our "green project" grant program, which (over the past year and one-half) has awarded grants of up to \$500 to 14 Lancaster County organizations, as well as support our outdoor activities and educational programs that are designed to help people better appreciate, protect and preserve the environment.

Sierrans and Friends Meet and Greet Christina Hartman

On Oct. 19, about three weeks shy of the General Election, we invited everyone to a meet and greet social with Christina M. Hartman, who at the time was a candidate for U.S. Representative from Pennsylvania's 16th District. This is the district that covers portions of Lancaster, Berks and Chester Counties, much of our membership territory, and has been held for some 20 years by Representative Joseph Pitts.



In her upbeat presentation at the meet and greet, this former consultant to nonprofits talked about her environmental views and goals and her qualifications to be a U.S. Representative. Even though Christina lost the election to Republican Lloyd Smucker, she polled a significantly higher number of votes than any other Sierra Club-supported candidate who previously vied for the position. After getting to know this young politico, we're sure the 2016 election was only a beginning marker for her, that she's destined for a bright future, and that we'll be hearing from her again.



Bike Riders Take a Break to Learn about Local Energy Producers

Sierra Club - Lancaster Group member, Brian Vandegrift, led 17 bike riders on a 13-mile trek on the Northwest Lancaster County River Trail in September. Special guest, Tom Schuster from the National Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, shared the Sierra Club's position on several energy producers along the route. Included were LCSWMA incinerator and Brunner Island Coal fired plant, which is the dirtiest energy plant in the state and a main contributor to Lancaster County having one of the highest air pollution rates in the country.

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Update on the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline in Lancaster County and the Sierra Club's Position

The Sierra Club, along with a number of organizations, opposes construction of the pipeline. The project has been repeatedly delayed by local opposition, environmental issues, and concern about the pipeline as an explosive hazard. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has pushed back their approval schedule yet again, and now intends to release their Environmental Impact Study by December 30. Opposition to the pipeline is having an effect, but it is important to continue this movement. Stay tuned for updates and information posted at www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/asp.

Thoughts from the Chair

Abraham Lincoln foresaw the potential for wind power. Thomas Edison predicted that solar power would be a force for the future. Jimmy Carter installed solar panels on the White House roof. Germany is now getting a huge share of its power through solar energy. Why is the United States still relying on fossil fuels? As Sierra Club members, you know the answer to that question.

As members, you have taken a step towards pushing for cleaner greener energy. Please continue to push your representatives for better fuel alternatives and cost incentives. Help educate your children and neighbors on the negative effects of greenhouse gasses. Push to ensure that we never again have political candidates who deny that human activity is affecting our climate. If we all push just a little more, we can reach that tipping point. Thank you for doing all that you do and for taking just one more small step towards doing all you can. - Steve Heim

The Sierra Club - Lancaster Group would like to give a shout out to Carli Feldman for a job well done as she served the PA Club as administrative director in Harrisburg these last four years. Good luck, Carli, in your next endeavors! 😊

The official registration and financial information of the Lancaster Group of Sierra Club may be obtained from the PA Dept. of State by calling, toll free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Cast Your Vote for These Executive Committee Nominees

Brinton Culp: Growing up in a home that promoted conservation and spending time outdoors, I have always realized our responsibility to protect the environment. This is why I sought out my local Sierra Club chapter. I have now happily served on the Lancaster Group's ExCom for six years and have been excited to see the positive impact on our local environment. I graduated from Millersville University with a BSE in English and Spanish and am currently teaching Spanish in the middle school at Lititz Area Mennonite School. As a mother and a teacher, I hope that our children learn the importance of using resources wisely and working to make our planet a better place for everyone to live healthy lives. I believe the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group works towards this same goal as we seek to enjoy, explore, and protect our part of the world and beyond.

Tracy Daniels: I spent my childhood wandering the woods of Massachusetts where I developed my love of the outdoors. I came to Lancaster County to attend Franklin & Marshall College, studied Classical Archaeology and Business, and have never left. After 25 years of marketing experience, I started my own business and will soon be a certified real estate appraiser. I have had the pleasure of being a member of Sierra Club - Lancaster Group since 2010. This is the most dedicated group of volunteers with whom I have ever had the privilege to work. If re-elected, I look forward to helping Lancaster Countians explore, enjoy and protect Lancaster.

Jane Druce: I feel it is important to teach younger generations to love and protect the natural world. I grew up along the Yellow Breeches Creek and enjoyed canoeing, boating, fishing, and swimming. As a teacher, I emphasized environmental awareness and practices such as having a verma-composter in class, recycling, and reducing waste. As a mother of two grown boys, I continue to follow environmental practices such as organic gardening, using rain barrels, and buying local. For the past six years I have served on the ExCom and been chair of the Education Committee. I have enjoyed bringing more awareness to the public about our organization.

Steve Heim: My grandmother was a hiker and environmentalist who passed her interest on by dragging me around the forests and mountains while hiking the Appalachian Trail. She taught my brothers and me to love the outdoors. I believe preserving and protecting the environment for those who follow is the most important thing anyone could ever do. While I have been active in the Sierra Club, I have served as Co-Chair, Treasurer, and as the Outings Committee Chair, and I have been a member of the Political, Polar Bear, Vision, and Education Committees. I intend to continue doing everything I can to help.

Merv Stoltzfus: I grew up on an organic farm. At a young age, I was aware of the negative impacts our society was having on the natural world. I am an optometrist and practice in Christiana, PA. My hobbies are biking, kayaking, hiking and sailing. I love being outside. Giving donations to environmental causes and thinking about how I use the earth's resources had been the extent of my environmental involvement. However, the development of fracking to drill for natural gas has pushed me to become more involved in protecting the environment. It upsets me that the oil and gas industries are permitted to repeatedly make the same environmental mistakes. My goal as a member of the Sierra Club is to educate people about those mistakes and help influence public policy. I enjoy working with people with similar concerns and would like to continue to be more involved in local environmental projects.

Voting Ballot for Lancaster Group - Executive Committee Members

Vote for up to 5 candidates to serve on Lancaster Group's Executive Committee. Place a ✓ beside your choices and mail this ballot to:

Sierra Club-Lancaster Group, PO Box 8344, Lancaster, PA 17604

or email your response to: SCLancasterElections@gmail.com

or cast your vote online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/68568SR>

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Brinton Culp

☐

Tracy Daniels

☐

Jane Druce

☐

Steve Heim

☐

Merv Stoltzfus

Voting Deadline: Dec. 31, 2016



Sierra Club - Lancaster Group members put on their "Happy Feet" and marched as penguins in the annual Millersville Parade on Oct. 22. This year's theme was "Hollywood Comes to Millersville" and in the spirit of the film, our penguins had a blast while also advocating for the environment. Carrying signs that read "Penguins, Polar Bears and Porpoises Need Our Help," "Healthy Planet—Happy Feet," and "Keep Us Happy—Keep It Cool!" the penguins drew attention to the harsh reality of Climate Change. It is our hope that we all come together and do our part in protecting our planet at this crucial time. Let's follow the penguins and move our feet for the planet!—Or write a letter to the editor, or call your congressman, or sign a petition. Turn down the thermostat, buy local, use reusable bags. And stay cool!

In preparing for the parade, members researched environmental films and came across "10 Films to Inspire Your Inner Environmental Superhero" at www.yesmagazine.org. Here's the countdown. Enjoy!

10. *Prophecy* (1979)
9. *Avatar* (2009)
8. *Fern Gully: The Last Rainforest* (1992)
7. *I Heart Huckabees* (2004)
6. *Erin Brockovich* (2000)
5. *Bambi* (1942)
4. *The Road* (2009)
3. *Soylent Green* (1973)
2. *Princess Mononoke* (1997)
1. *Chinatown* (1974)

2017 marks the Sierra Club's 125th anniversary! Help keep John Muir's vision alive by exploring, enjoying, and protecting the planet!



Sierra Club – Lancaster Group
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**SIERRA
CLUB**

Green Project Grants Awarded To Five More Lancaster County Organizations

One of the ways we marked Earth Day this year was to award our "green project" grants to five additional Lancaster County organizations, each of which has shown a need for support of a venture that promotes sustainability, expands environmental awareness, or improves green infrastructure.

Receiving the \$250 to \$500 grants were (projects included): the City of Lancaster, planting trees near the homes of residents and other green infrastructure efforts; East Petersburg Faith Outreach, creating a green area that includes native plants and grasses on the site of a former parking lot near the East Petersburg Area Civic Center; Friends of the Osprey, developing a Susquehanna Riverbank site to view osprey nesting and interacting on a platform placed along the Northwest River Trail; Lancaster Tree Tenders, growing Lancaster's Urban Forest by engaging and empowering neighborhoods to plant and care for trees; and Village Grande at Miller's Run, scheduling speakers for its series of "Conservation Conversations."

Proposals for these grants were evaluated on criteria such as environmental objective, unique aspect of the project, quality of submission, and how the Sierra Club-Lancaster Group could be

involved. With this latest round of awards, a total of 14 Lancaster County organizations received "green project" grants since 2015. The grants, awarded once a year, are funded with money generated by our annual Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike.

Charitable, educational or business organizations in Lancaster County that demonstrate a commitment to the Sierra Club's mission of "exploring, enjoying and protecting the planet" are eligible and encouraged to apply for a grant. Application deadline for the next cycle of awards is March 1, 2017. (They will be announced publicly on Earth Day 2017.) For complete details about our "green project" grant program, visit <http://lancastersierraclub.org/grant-program/>, call (717) 475-0586, or email jimsmeenan@gmail.com.

Thank you for considering the
Sierra Club - Lancaster Group
in this year's Extraordinary
Give. We can make a
difference!

**THE EXTRA
ORDINARY
GIVE**

NOVEMBER 18, 2016



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