



LANCASTER NEWS

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Newsletter for the Lancaster Group of the Sierra Club

December 2014

Vol. 7, No. 2



2014 Earth Day Event at Sahd Metal Recycling

2014 Recap - with a Big THANK YOU to All the Volunteers

Exploring the Planet: hiking, biking, watching environmental movies featuring locations here and abroad, leading nature walks for Take a Child Outside Week with students from Washington Elementary School in Lancaster City

Enjoying the Planet: facilitating the Polar Bear 5K run/hike, participating in the Millersville Parade to promote environmental awareness, teaching students about vermicomposting at the Super Saturday event at Franklin and Marshall College

Protecting the Planet: joining in Earth Day events at Sahd Metal Recycling and the Native Plant Festival in Manheim Township, weeding invasive plants at Landis Woods and Lancaster County Park, cleaning up trash at Chickies Rock County Park along with Rivertownes PA USA, voicing concern for climate change at The People's Climate March, staying informed in order to spread the word about the proposed pipeline running through Lancaster County and other local issues

Messages from the Co-Chairs

1 - Where are You? We've been looking for you...because we have some great ideas for next year that could benefit from your help and involvement.

More outings, field trips and movie nights are among our plans, as well as renewed attention to our popular speaker series. We also look to expand our political, conservation and outings sub-committees. But in order to make these and other activities or initiatives extra special, we really need more "hands on deck." Our active members are not cliquey and we try to make all new faces feel welcome. So...please don't be shy. Come to an outing, a business meeting, a movie or a speaker program.

And, if you want to be more involved, please feel free to contact me. Let me know how you'd like to help and definitely what interests you and what issue you would, personally, like us to address. Bringing up a topic or concern doesn't mean you'll be required to be the matter's point person. You may email me at brianv@centurylink.net (write "Sierra Club Lancaster" in the subject line) or send me a snail-mail note via the USPS (use address on this newsletter).

Finally, if you hear of or see an environmental problem that we may not be aware of, let us know about it. And remember, input about your ideas and interests are always most welcome. Happy 2015!

Brian Vandegrift
Co-chair, SC - Lancaster Group,
and state chapter delegate

2 - Greetings to all of our local Sierra Club members and friends and thank you for all that you do to protect and preserve the ecosystem. Hopefully you voted to push our elected officials to do the right things for the environment. Even if you aren't politically motivated, your voice needs to be heard above the din of the despoilers and their unlimited wealth.

Please make sure to get outside and enjoy nature. Don't let most of your memories be television reruns. If you can't go out, consider looking at some of these outstanding websites:

- Food and Water Watch (helping to keep our comestibles clean): www.foodandwaterwatch.org
- The PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: www.dcnr.state.pa.us
- The PA Fish and Boat Commission: www.fish.state.pa.us
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov
- NASA (search "climate change"): www.nasa.gov
- Invasivore.org (tips and recipes for eating invasive species from carp to kudzu): www.invasivore.org

Also consider visiting our previously noted favorites:

- The Lancaster County Conservancy (preserving local lands for our enjoyment): www.lancasterconservancy.org
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation: www.cbf.org
- The Citizens' Climate Lobby (valuable source for refuting deniers): www.citizensclimatelobby.org
- The Lancaster County Conservation District: www.lancasterconservation.org

Steve Heim

What's Noteworthy? Take a moment to check our website to find out what the Sierra Club - Lancaster Group is up to. While you're there, click on "Noteworthy" to learn about things we think are worth sharing.

Preparations Underway for 2015 Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike

It's only a matter of weeks now until we greet everyone at our **5th Annual Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike**. Runners and hikers of all ages are invited to participate in this 3.1-mile race, which is set for Saturday, January 17 (2015), at 10 a.m. in scenic Lancaster County Central Park. Bring a dog if you wish; they're welcome to 'hike' with you and join in the merriment, but don't forget to bring a leash.

Last January, more than 220 hikers and runners, plus 20 very happy dogs, trekked through snow during the 4th Annual race, while scores of volunteers pitched in to make the event possible. The race will follow the same route as last January (2014), meandering through the park on well-maintained trails with some hills. Race day registration and check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the park's Pavilion 22 (Kiwanis Lodge). Registration fee is \$20 from now until January 8, 2015; \$25 after January 8, 2015, or on race day. Only those people, however, who pre-register (with payment) by January 8 will be given the option to receive a specially designed T-shirt. To promote sustainability, we ask that you please bring your own water bottle.

All top three male and female finishers in each age category will get prizes. And the first three dogs to finish (in any age group) also will receive awards.

The money raised by this annual event--the Lancaster Group's biggest fundraiser--supports local environmental projects including efforts to end global warming, the reason polar bears and other creatures are at risk of extinction. Funds raised in the 2015 race will support a variety of outdoor and educational initiatives designed to help people better appreciate, protect and preserve the environment. For example, the Lancaster Group will continue nurturing the trees it planted last year as a riparian buffer along Mill Creek in Lancaster County Central Park.

For registration forms and more information, or if you'd like to help with the race, please visit www.lancastersierraclub.org, email sierraclubevent@gmail.com, or "Like" us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/sierraclublancaster>.



Trees in County Park

In the fall of 2013, your Sierra Club - Lancaster Group planted 100 deciduous trees in Lancaster County Central Park. A wonderful crew of dedicated volunteers made the planting go quickly, easily, and enjoyably. Sadly, the unusually harsh winter took its toll and only 43 of the trees survived, a reminder that nature isn't all birdsong and fuzzy bunnies. Please watch this space (and our website) for information on a possible future event to replace the trees.

Sobering Thoughts: If Pennsylvania were a country, we would be 23rd in the world in carbon polluting. Asthma is the leading cause of hospitalization in children. Wind already creates more jobs per KW than that of coal, yet wind only accounts for 3% of the energy mix in the country while coal is 40% of the mix. If we had 100% clean energy, it would create 500,000 jobs; coal and the industry that supports it only creates 40,000 jobs.

How You Can Make a Difference: Turn back the thermostat and wear a sweater. Vote for candidates that support clean energy. Make a call, write a letter, or send an email to your congressmen in support of clean energy. Switch to a clean energy supplier - Visit www.papowerswitch.com to find a supplier, or check into the Sierra Club's partner, Ethical Electric.

Upcoming Events & Member Meetings

December 17, 2014 - 6:30 p.m. Holiday Potluck Dinner at Lancaster Country Day School. Bring a dish, dessert, or beverage and enjoy the evening with your fellow Sierrans.

January 17, 2015 - Polar Bear 5K Trail Run/Hike. Race begins at 10 a.m. See above for details.

January 21, 2015 - Member Meeting*

March 18, 2015 - Member Meeting*

May 20, 2015 - Member Meeting*

*** Member Meetings and other events such as guest speakers and environmental movie nights take place the 3rd Wednesday of the month at Lancaster Country Day School - 725 Hamilton Road, Lancaster. Member meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. while other events begin at 7:00 p.m.**

Please check out the website www.lancastersierraclub.org or look for notices in your inbox about upcoming events. The ExCom and various committees are gearing up for the new year with exciting ways to explore, enjoy and protect the planet.



Attention Cross Country Skiers - If you would like to be notified for impromptu cross country ski outings, please e-mail Brian at brianv@centurylink.net with your contact information. This is for Sierra club members only.

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.



Tom Wolf — What's in Store for PA?

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, along with Clean Water Action, Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania, PennEnvironment, and PennFuture, endorsed Tom Wolf for Governor. We, the Lancaster Group, congratulate Governor-Elect Wolf and urge him along with these organizations to prioritize the following during his first 100 days in office:

- Save Pennsylvania's State Parks and Forests
- Plan for the Future on Climate and Energy
- Let the Department of Environmental Protection Protect the Environment
- Keep Our Water Safe
- Regulate Methane and Clean Up Pennsylvania's Air

Go to the Pennsylvania Chapter website to read more:

Cast Your Vote for These Sierra Club - Lancaster Group 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 four 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 Lancaster Group - Sierra Club 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. I have over 20 years of marketing experience and have worked or volunteered for non-profits since 1996. 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 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 four 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. Until recently, 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 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 the 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/s/68568SR>

☐ Brinton Culp ☐ Tracy Daniels ☐ Jane Druce

☐ Steve Heim ☐ Merv Stoltzfus

Voting Deadline: Dec. 31, 2014

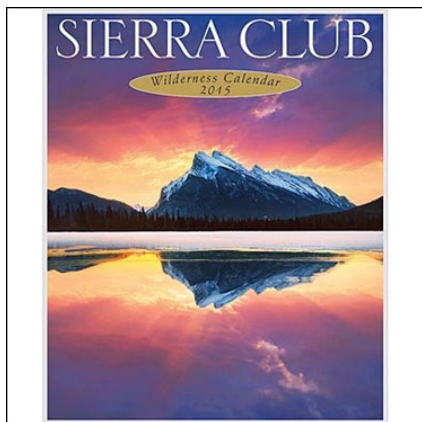


Sierra Club - Lancaster Group
PO Box 8344
Lancaster, PA 17604

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 866
Lancaster, PA

Sierra Club Wilderness Calendars Make Great Gifts

Sierra Club 2015 full-color Wilderness Calendars, both engagement and wall styles, make fabulous gifts



and are still available through our Group.

Engagement calendars are priced at \$14, while wall calendars are selling for \$13. They can be purchased at any of our meetings or other activities or by contacting one of

our members. For more details, visit our website, www.lancastersierraclub.org and click on Fundraisers, or email sierraclubevent@gmail.com.



**Lancaster Group Members in the Millersville 2014
Parade Displaying the Sierra Club's Motto:
Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet**



Printed on recycled paper, using vegetable-based ink.