



REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

# Otzinachson

## A Better Rate of Return

By Laura Piraino

With a 14% guaranteed rate of return for their investors, PPL's proposal to construct the new billion dollar Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line (Line B) is no big surprise. When regional rate-payers rather than investors assume all the investment risks, as well as incur environmental and community costs, there is great incentive to build, and overbuild, whether the transmission line is

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## Winter is Nature's Gift to Farmers

By Joe Detelj

Winter is Nature's gift to farmers: it requires the steward, the soil and its near limitless subterranean inhabitants, as well as the terrestrial trees, shrubs, and grasses to rest and recuperate in anticipation of their soon to be Spring solar reunion.

The winter interlude is a welcome relief and affords an opportunity to refresh old knowledge, catch up on what is new, and expand upon complimentary topics of interest. We have had an extended snow cover this season which has favored an expanded menu of reading matter. Most are familiar names to environmentally-minded souls (Wendell Berry, Thomas Berry, Edward Abbey, Bill McKibben) but it is a book with a title not likely to attract tree huggers that lingers and conditions my thoughts at this time.

Herman Daly is an economist, a practitioner of the dismal science whose experience at the World Bank has provoked, at least in part, a valuable critique of the current orthodoxy which is employed in defense of the mindless destruction of the natural world that has characterized the era of "free market" economics. *Beyond Growth: The Economics of Sustainable Development*, is an accessible technical presentation that turns classical economics on its head. It argues for a zero growth economy and elaborates what that means and how it may begin.

The main point is the experiential recognition that the environment is not a sub-set of the economy, but rather the environment contains finite resources and climatic regulation that ultimately dictates the scale of a functional economy. The limits are imposed by Nature. Undifferentiated growth doesn't proceed forever, it's called cancer, and it results in death if not properly checked. Daly puts forth the notion that the abstract world of

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### QUOTE

"If we want things to stay as they are, than we will have to change."

-Tom Friedman, *Hot, Flat & Crowded*



## Message from the Chair: Subtitle

The last two programs presented by the Otzinachson Group were a great success. We filled the seats at our "Wild Pennsylvania" program at the Kelly Twp. Building and had an overflowing crowd at the "chocolate" program at the Bloomsburg Library. The Bloomsburg program was the result of efforts by Ed Lawrence. Debby Meade has taken the initiative to schedule a wildflower program this month at the Union County Library. I hope to see you there.

Thanks to the efforts of our outings chair Paul Shaw, we now have a great hiking schedule for the Spring and Summer. With a range of difficulty, there is a hike just right for you.

A committee of three has been working very diligently to schedule a banquet for the Fall. It is now scheduled for the evening of October 24 at the La Primavera Italiano Ristorante in Lewisburg. We hope to invite many other local environmental groups to this event. Please mark the date on your calendar. When the details are set, we will post the information on our website: [www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson](http://www.pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson). We are endeavoring to engage a first class speaker for the event.

Please support our efforts with your participation. We are doing our best to promote the work of the club through our educational programs and hiking schedule to bring more people in contact with nature. All our programming is the result of the efforts of those who volunteer their time for the Group. If you would be willing to donate 10-20 hours or more of your time a year for the Group, we sure would welcome your efforts. If you think you can, email me at [jmiller1018@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiller1018@yahoo.com).

*Jack Miller, Chair*

## HELP WANTED: Newsletter Editor

The Otzinachson is seeking a volunteer to serve as editor of the *Otzinachson Newsletter*. The publication is printed 2-3 times/year. Those interested should contact Nicole Faraguna at [ndfhome@tds.net](mailto:ndfhome@tds.net).

### Otzinachson Leadership

#### Executive Committee:

**Jack Miller**, Middleburg; **Chair**  
**Dave Hafer**, Lewisburg; **Vice Chair**  
**Roy Fontaine**, Watsontown; **Treasurer**  
**Ed Lawrence**, Orangeville; **Secretary**  
**Lana Gulden**, Transportation Chair  
**Nicole Faraguna**, Herndon; Conservation  
**Sam Pearson**, Lewisburg; Energy/Climate  
Change  
**David Young**, Lewisburg; Environmental  
Justice

#### Committee Chairs:

**Roy Fontaine**, Fundraising  
**Debbie Meade**, Membership  
**Richard Sahn**; Human Rights, Water  
Quality  
**Paul Shaw**, Outings

There are a number of committee openings available. For a complete list of committees, visit our website at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Otzinachson/leadership.html>. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the committee chair (contact information available online).

*Visit us online:  
[pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson/](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson/)*

### **Attend a Meeting!!**

*All Sierra Club members  
& interested non-  
members are welcome!!!*

**June 3**  
**August 5**  
**October 7**  
**December 2**

All meetings are held at 7:15 P.M. at the First Baptist Church, 51 S. 3rd Street, Lewisburg

If you have something that you wish to bring to the group's attention please contact Jack Miller, Chair, at [jmiller1018@yahoo.com](mailto:jmiller1018@yahoo.com) at least one week ahead of time.

## Winter (Continued)

economics is subject to the same physical laws as the real world. Elaborate mathematical models which assumptions invalidate those laws are no more scientifically sound than the medieval models that demonstrated the sun revolving around the earth. Scientific dressing can't substitute for substance. Daly explores theory and practice from a corrected plane of vision.

One sub-text of this argument that is of particular interest to my agricultural bent is his treatment of free trade. That free trade is a good thing is not open to question by any institutional authority. The textile mills in Central Pennsylvania, the steel mills and fabrication plants of the Mid West, and the major appliance makers that populated the more Western regions of the Nation might have former workers shaking their heads in disbelief but they have not had the benefit of formal training in the subject.

Farm Bureau extolls the virtue of free trade having received the proper instruction. We come by this bit of scripture via the writings of a 19<sup>th</sup> century philosopher David Ricardo. His theory of comparative advantage is illustrated by a model of two countries. He gives as an example, England and Portugal. If both countries manufactured wine and cloth and one was more efficient at the production of one item over the other, and the reverse were true in the other country then a comparative advantage existed. It would benefit both countries to specialize and trade. In his example England would concentrate on cloth, and Portugal on wine, even though Portugal may have possessed an absolute advantage in both. Ricardo goes into great detail as to why this is so and makes a plausible argument that holds merit to this day (despite as a result, England became a manufacturing giant, and Portugal became a lower tier economic power).

What does not hold true to this day is his fundamental assumption that capital was not mobile. In those times of yore a manufacturer would never consider an investment

in a foreign nation. Nationalism, the threat of war, competition for colonial exploitation, as well as a host of cultural barriers would completely inhibit that course of action. Obviously, that golden age of harmonic equilibrium no longer exists. Today there is nothing more mobile than capital. Multinational capital owns no limits. If our time is marked by any distinction it is the rush of capital to those places where the most pronounced absolute advantage exists. Labor being a vital and major factor of production has influenced the exodus of capital to those nations with the cheapest labor. This action has not resulted in a tide that raises all boats but rather one that has left most high and dry.

The reality of our time forces us to confront the dual problem of climate change and a failed free market economy. Local, sustainable agriculture properly scaled, dispersed and diverse, networked into a larger universe where fair trade integrates us into a greater whole is, in my opinion, a major component of the solution we need to incorporate. A cooperative human effort, not a legal exemption is the sought after organizational form. Comparative advantage is a reductionist concept, not at all suitable for a complex biological process as is farming, and Daly has surely shown that comparative advantage is not a brief for free trade. Can we be happy if it is at the cost of child labor, conscripts and a chain gang? What is of value if purchased with the sweat of 14-hour, six-day weeks of displaced peasants? Are we better off with melamine in our infant formula, and lead in children's toys? The answer to all the above according to the tried and true is yes. But, I know in every fiber of our being the answer is no.

In this winter of discontent it appears there are more and more of us who see the need for major change in the way we think about the world as well as the way we live in it. I welcome the inevitable change that will surely come about with the passage of time and tide. ☞



## Linn Conservancy Celebrates Earth Month

*With Annual Caring for Communities Program*

The Merrill W. Linn Land & Waterways Conservancy celebrates Earth Month with its Caring for Communities program—a series of free, family-oriented events scheduled for every weekend in April as well as Arbor Day and Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The program, now in its sixth year, offers opportunities to reconnect with nature.

“The Conservancy’s Earth Month Celebration explores crucial animal, plant, and habitat issues that affect the sustainability and well being of our communities, and we do it in a way that appeals to the entire family,” says program chair Tom Gibson. “This year’s theme is conserving and improving animal wildlife habitat, both in the backyard and the lands around us,” he adds.

The Linn Conservancy was founded in 1988 to honor the memory of Merrill W. Linn, an attorney, conservationist and outdoorsman.

The Linn Conservancy seeks to protect and preserve significant ecological sites in Union County, Upper Northumberland County and contiguous areas of Central Pennsylvania.

For more information about the Conservancy and its Earth Month Celebration visit [www.linnconservancy.org](http://www.linnconservancy.org). ☞

## Schedule of Events

### **WKOK Roundtable discussion “Preserving Animal Wildlife Habitat”**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

### **Annual Native Plant Sale / ‘Gardening for Animal Wildlife’**

Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> 1:30 pm held at the Public Library for Union County in Lewisburg.

### **Exploration of Montandon Marsh**

Saturday, April 11, at 10 am.

### **Owl Walk / Astronomy Observation**

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, held at the Dale/Engle/Walker property.

### **Rural Routes’ Bicycle Rides**

Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 1 p.m. Both 15 and 30-mile routes through the Union County countryside, geared to different fitness levels. The rides leave from the Dale’s Ridge Trail parking lot.

### **Arbor Day Activities**

Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, tree planting and celebration at the Lewisburg Cemetery at 4:30 p.m., followed by a tree walk around the 7<sup>th</sup> Street area of Lewisburg. Participants meet at the northeast corner of the cemetery near 7<sup>th</sup> St & St. Catherine St.

### **Buffalo Creek Water Quality Testing/ Canoe/Kayak**

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Mazeppa Park. The water sampling begins at 1 p.m. The Canoe/Kayak trip, which begins at 2 p.m., requires registration and a fee. For more info, call 524-7692 or online at [canoesusque-hanna.com](http://canoesusque-hanna.com)

### **Celebration Day for the Family**

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Dale/Engle/Walker property. Event headliners include Reptiland’s Clyde Peeling, Native American David Blackbear Ramsey and Robyn Graboski, founder and director of Centre Wildlife Care. Edwena Eger leads two hands-on bluebird house workshops.

## *Save the Date*

# *Environmental Banquet*

## *October 24, 2009*

## *La Primavera Italiano Ristorante, Lewisburg*

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**OTZINACHSON REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB**  
**Edward Abbey Hiking Society**  
**Spring/Summer 2009 Outings Schedule**  
**CST 2087766-40**

**For more information contact:**

**Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, 570-672-2389 [pshaw@ptd.net](mailto:pshaw@ptd.net)**

**Saturday, April 11: Loyalsock Trail**

9 miles, *strenuous*. Shake off the winter cobwebs as we hike the first section of the Loyalsock Trail, from the trailhead on Rt. 87 to the fine view at Smith's Knob. Steep climb and descent of Smith's Knob. Meet at Wal-Mart parking lot (by Wendy's) on Rt. 87 at 8:00 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Sue Wright, [swright4@comcast.net](mailto:swright4@comcast.net).

**Sunday, April 19: Loyalsock Trail**

6.5 miles, *easy to moderate*. Join us on a hike on the Loyalsock Trail from Sone's Pond to the end of the LT at Route 220, passing the Haystacks. Meet 9:30 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Severe weather cancels. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

**Sunday, April 26: Duboistown Water Company**

6 miles, *easy*. This hike goes past the old Remington Estate built in the mid-1880's. Basically a level hike crossing old stone bridges. Meet at 10:00 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market & Hasting (Rt 15), South Williamsport. Bring lunch & water. Leader: Merrily Frey 570-326-3907.

**Saturday, May 2: Hunter Mountain, Catskills NY**

4 miles, *moderate*. This hike captures the magnificent scenery of the Catskill Mountains in southern New York. Meet at the Denny's parking lot off the Faxon exit in Williamsport (Golden Strip, E. Third St.) at 6:00 am. A five hour drive (car pooling will be arranged). Bring lunch and water. We will stop for dinner in Woodstock after the hike. Leader: Richard Sahn 570-435-2401. Please call to confirm attendance and for information.

**Sunday, May 3: R.B. Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest**

9 miles, *moderate to strenuous*. We will hike the Mid State Trail and return via the Fallen Timber Trail. Meet at the R.B. Winter parking area adjacent to Rt. 192 at the breast of the dam at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134. Please call to confirm. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Saturday, May 9: Mid State Trail**

9 miles, *moderate to strenuous*. A hike on Pennsylvania's longest and wildest trail from Ravensburg State Park north to Loganton Road. This hike includes walking a portion of the Great Island Indian Path, believed to be one of the last unpaved fragments of an original native trail remaining on public land in Penn's Woods. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Harvest Moon Restaurant on Route 220, west of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285 or [cathyed@nationi.net](mailto:cathyed@nationi.net).

**Sunday, May 10: Dale's Ridge**

2.5 miles, *easy*. A nature ramble to look for wildflowers and migratory birds on the lovely Dale's Ridge Trail, near Lewisburg. Great hike for all ages. Meet at parking lot behind Lewisburg P.O. at 10:30 or Dale's Ridge parking lot at 10:45. Leader: Dave Hafer 570-523-3107.

**Saturday, May 16: Bike Ride on the Pine Creek Rail Trail**

30 miles, *moderate*. We will ride to Slate Run and back on Pennsylvania's most spectacular rail trail. Meet at the Waterville access area on Rt. 44 at 10:00 am. You can pack your own lunch or have the option of eating at the Hotel Manor or Wolf's General Store in the village of Slate Run. Rain cancels. Leader: Laurie Nau 570-745-2233.

**Sunday, May 17: Mason-Dixon Trail**

10.5 miles, *strenuous*. We will hike the surprisingly rugged Mason-Dixon Trail on the west side of the Susquehanna River in York County, from Otter Creek Campground to the Holtwood Bridge, with frequent ups and downs. Our hike follows the western half of the route used for the Susquehanna Super Hike (see September 11 listing). Numerous vistas overlooking the Susquehanna. Meet at the K-Mart

parking lot along Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam (across from Tedd's Landing Restaurant) at 9:00 am. Bring lunch & water. We'll stop for dinner afterwards. Leader: Paul Shaw 570-672-2389, [pshaw@ptd.net](mailto:pshaw@ptd.net).

**Sunday, May 24: Old Loggers Path**

12 miles, *strenuous*. We will hike the southern section of the Old Loggers Path from Masten Ghost Town to Pleasant Stream Road. Fine views. Meet at 9:00 am at the Steam Valley Restaurant on Rt. 14, just off Rt. 15 north of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

**Saturday, May 30: R.B. Winter State Park & Bald Eagle State Forest**

10 miles, *strenuous*. We'll hike the Black Gap Trail and other trails to make a 10-mile loop. Meet at parking area adjacent to Rt 192 at the breast of the dam at 9:00 am. Bring lunch & water. Leader: Joe Rebar 570-259-0134. Please call to confirm. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday, May 31: Old Loggers Path**

14 miles, *strenuous to very strenuous*. We will hike the northern section of the Old Loggers Path, including Sullivan Mountain and the Rock Run area. Very scenic. Meet at 9:00 am at the Steam Valley Restaurant on Rt. 14, just off Rt. 15 north of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

**Sunday, June 7: Michaux State Forest**

8-10 miles, *strenuous*. This circular hike traverses several trails in the Michaux State Forest, and passing through vistas, old homesteads, a former WW II P.O.W. camp, and historic Pine Grove Furnace. Meet at the parking lot behind the Lewisburg P.O. at 8:00 am or at the Pine Grove Store next to the mansion house at Pine Grove Furnace State Park on PA 233 south of I-81 at 10:00 am. Bring lunch, water, and good walking shoes. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash while in the state park area. Leaders: Carl and Bonnie Davis 717-532-3696.

**Sunday, June 14: Conestoga Trail**

12 miles, *very strenuous*. This hike follows the Conestoga Trail on the east side of the Susquehanna River in Lancaster County, from Holtwood Bridge to Pequea Creek Campground. This is one of the most scenic and challenging day hikes in Pennsylvania and features numerous spectacular views of the Susquehanna, several nature preserves, and Wind Cave. Those wishing to enter the cave must bring a flashlight. Multiple climbs and descents. Our hike follows the eastern half of the route for the Susquehanna Super Hike (see listing for September 11). Meet at the K-Mart parking lot along Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam (across from Tedd's Landing Restaurant) at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water. We will stop for dinner afterwards. Leader: Paul Shaw 570-672-2389, [pshaw@ptd.net](mailto:pshaw@ptd.net).

**Saturday, June 20: Thunder Swamp Trail**

11 miles, *strenuous*. This hike on the Pocono plateau in Delaware State Forest will take us through the two lobes of the Stillwater Natural Area and around the Big Bear Swamp. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the McDonalds located at the Mifflinville exit 242 off Route 80. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285, [cathyed@nationi.net](mailto:cathyed@nationi.net).

**Saturday, July 25: Susquehannock Trail**

13 miles, *strenuous*. We will hike a section of the Susquehannock Trail from its northern gateway off Route 6 east of Potato City to Rock Ridge Road. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of the Harvest Moon Restaurant, located on Route 220, west of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285, [cathyed@nationi.net](mailto:cathyed@nationi.net).

**Sunday, August 16: Mid State Trail**

12 miles, *strenuous*. This hike from R.B. Winter State Park north to Mohn Mill Road will offer hikers an opportunity to observe pingo scars and thus connect with their inner ice age. Meet at 9:00 am at the Halfway Dam parking lot at R.B. Winter State Park, along Route 192. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285, [cathyed@nationi.net](mailto:cathyed@nationi.net).

**Saturday, September 11: Susquehanna Super Hike**

25 miles, *extremely strenuous*. This grueling one-day challenge hike, organized by Keystone Trails Association, is a test of fitness and endurance for strong hikers and trail runners. The route follows the Mason-Dixon Trail on the west side of the Susquehanna River before crossing the Norman Wood Bridge near Holtwood, then continues up the east side of the Susquehanna River on the Conestoga Trail. Over 8000' in total elevation changes. Spectacular scenery along the way. \$50 fee to register. For more information and to register, go to [www.kta-hike.org](http://www.kta-hike.org).

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## A Better Rate (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

necessary or not.

The rationale given to build the line is to meet increased electricity demand in New Jersey, not in Pennsylvania, which has a surplus of energy on hand. Meeting increased demand through conservation and efficiency, and generating energy closer to where it is needed in New Jersey would be less costly and have much less of an environmental impact on the region. Transferring cheaper pre-existing coal fired electricity from PA into the northeast is very profitable, and another financial incentive for PPL.

In Pennsylvania, the line undermines energy efficiency legislation (HB2200) that was just passed that requires utilities to reduce consumption and peak demand by 4.5% in 2013. Energy efficiency initiatives stimulates green job growth locally, rather than just temporary transmission line construction jobs.

The line undermines the New Jersey Global Warming Response Act, which calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, to 1990 levels by 2020, approximately a 20%, followed by a further reduction of emissions to 80% below 2006 levels by 2050.

Exporting our coal fired electricity into New Jersey also undermines the northeast's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative cap-and-trade program. This aims to cap regional power plant CO2 emissions at approximately current levels from 2009 to 2014 and reduce emissions 10% by 2019. There are no current plans to use the line to increase wind capacity, an investment which undermines the Obama administration's campaign agenda to upgrade the grid to transport more nonpolluting renewable energy.

Massive new 190 foot towers would be lining our pristine northeastern PA landscape, permanently affecting our viewscapes for 101.1 miles. The line crosses through the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, the NJ Highlands Preservation Area, the Bell Mountain Outcrop and

Meyers Mountain Natural Areas, multiple natural areas of Pike County and includes the western edge of the Moosic Mountain Barrens Natural Area.

Seven major streams would be crossed, including the Bush Kill the Delaware National Scenic River, Shohola Creek, Lackawanna River, Wallenpaupack Creek, Middle Creek and the Susquehanna River.

The US Fish & Wildlife Services identified two federally listed wildlife species known to occur in counties crossed by Route B; the federally endangered Indiana bat and the federally threatened bog turtle .

Outdoor recreation and the tourism industry in North East PA will be negatively impacted, in addition to the property values of those homeowners living along the proposed route. The benefit to Pennsylvania consumers should be fully demonstrated before such an investment is approved, with the region already impacted by global warming, Marcellus Shale drilling, and sprawl.

PPL also filed a petition to build an additional nuclear reactor in Berwick at the beginning of the line, another health and safety risk Pennsylvania would assume.

Yet an alternative investment in conservation, efficiency and off shore wind generation and transmission would reduce global warming and create green jobs, with far less negative environmental impacts. That is a better rate of return for the state of Pennsylvania, and for the planet. ☐

### Editor's Bookmarks

#### Earth Easy

[www.eartheasy.org](http://www.eartheasy.org)

Eartheasy is about sustainable living. It offers information, activities and ideas which help us live more simply, efficiently and with less impact on the environment.

#### Earth Day Networks

[www.earthdaynetwork.org](http://www.earthdaynetwork.org)

Celebrate Earth Day just the way you want ... organize, volunteer, attend—Enjoy!



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*The Otzinachson is pleased to present*  
***Natural History of Wildflowers and  
Other Unique Wonders of Nature***

Wednesday, April 15 at 6:30 PM / Public Library of Union County

Learn more at [pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson](http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson)

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