



REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

# Otzinachson

## Learn More About the Sierra Club Natural Gas Campaign

On Tuesday April 12 at 6:45 PM in the Community Room of the Union County Library the Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club will be welcoming Deb Nardone to present a program on the National Sierra Club efforts to protect us and the environment from the considerable problems presented by natural gas development. Deb was hired in January of this year as the first Director of the Sierra Club Natural Gas Reform Campaign. Deb comes to the club from the Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited as a Coldwater Resource Specialist. In this work she created the campaign for Trout Unlimited to address oil and gas development in Pennsylvania. She has also worked for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area on watershed protection. She will continue to work out of the State College Area.

Please come and join us to learn of the Club's involvement in this critical issue. She will bring increased insight of the problems this development presents and a give us a greater understanding of the Sierra Club's position and actions on this critical issue. ♣

## Otzinachson Opposes Siting and Construction of Chemical Tanks

by David A. Young

The Executive Committee of the Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club unanimously approved the following resolution at its executive committee meeting on February 16, 2011:

"The Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club opposes the siting and construction of National Oilwell Varco chemical tanks as proposed in their Site Specific Installation Permit Application #10012 until the concerns of the community are addressed with appropriate traffic studies and risk assessments, and until permit applications are filed and open to the public"

Per the assessment of the Warrior Run Residents for Respon-

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### QUOTE

"There is sufficiency in the world for man's need but not for man's greed"

-Mohandas K. Gandhi

## Message from the Chair: Magnitude of Changes

I was just asked for an accounting of the Otzinachson Group by the state chapter and found it difficult to summarize everything that's going on, perhaps because there is just so much. This issue of our newsletter tries to give you a peek into the range of issues we are fielding, digesting and responding to. At times we get so involved with what feels like putting out fires we forget to check in.

The elephant in the room for all of this is of course the Marcellus, and now Utica, Shale Gas Drilling. Our new number one industry stands to destroy the viability of our former top two: agriculture and tourism. The industry holds much promise for the bottom line for certain individuals and possibly entire communities, but it's a mistake to focus only on the well-advertised economics of the topic. Even as dollars are held out to cash-starved communities, truck traffic is ballooning out of all proportion, formerly pristine habitat is fragmented, public health is a distant concern when investment is the going concern, waters both local and distant are fouled in secret, subtle and not so subtle ways, and we all sit dazed by the assault.

Few really comprehend the magnitude of the changes on the way. Those of us promoting energy efficiency and seeking low-carbon solutions have a hard time interacting with the energy gold rush mentality that has kicked in.

It is conveniently a relatively unpopulated area that is bearing the brunt of the development. As those townships are overrun by on-again-off-again roustabout crews with incomes utterly out of proportion with the local economy, as their roads are overwhelmed, their country peace destroyed, their starry nights obliterated, and their water sources fouled, they feel alone. And it's true, even a scant 25 miles from the leading edge of the shale formation, it's hard to make a dent in the awareness and business-as-usual scurrying around of our neighbors. By the time the long term health consequences of deplorable air quality and fugitive chemicals in the river become apparent, the damage will have been done. To be honest, on the water front, it will eventually become very real for Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, Baltimore and Annapolis. But that is long in the future.

Consider taking an educational outing to one of your favorite Northern Tier nature spots. The changes will amaze you. And this with what is estimated to be a minute fraction of the number of wells to be expected over the next 30 years. We're at 2,000 with projections at 400,000 at build out (Marcellus only)...

*Sam Pearson, Chair*

### Otzinachson Leadership

#### Executive Committee:

**Sam Pearson**, Chair  
**Lana Gulden**, Vice Chair  
**Roy Fontaine**, Treasurer  
**Ed Lawrence**, Secretary  
**Nicole Faraguna**, Political Chair  
**Dave Hafer**, Student Coalition Liaison  
**Susan Loftus**, Membership Chair  
**Jack Miller**, Delegate/Conservation Chair

#### Committee Chairs:

**David Young**, Alternate Delegate  
**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/)*

### **Share Your Ideas and Attend a Meeting!!**

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

**April 6**  
**June 1**  
**August 3**  
**October 5**  
**December 7**

All meetings are held at  
 7:00 P.M. at the Mondragon  
 Book Store, 111 Market  
 Street, Lewisburg

If you have something that you wish to bring to the group's attention please contact Sam Pearson, Chair, at [sam.z.pearson@gmail.com](mailto:sam.z.pearson@gmail.com) at least one week ahead of time.

## Watsonstown (Continued)

(Continued from page 1)

sible Development's comments to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on this permit, the Group emphasized the following points:

1. The site is in close proximity to a floodplain, the Susquehanna River, and an area with decades of flood problems. The floodplain will likely expand as the frequency and intensity of storms and flooding increases. The elevation of the site is not sufficient to offset existing or revised floodplain boundaries. In the event of an historic flood and a serious accident, the damage would likely not be limited to Watsonstown, but stretch 100 miles, or more, down the Susquehanna River. This river is used as a municipal water source by many down-river communities.
2. National Oilwell Varco continues to refuse to identify the chemicals it will store, transport and mix. Additionally, National Oilwell Varco needs to state the annual volume of chemicals that will be used. The greater the volume, the greater the potential threat to the public's health and safety. ☐

### Mondragon Book Store

111 Market Street  
Lewisburg, PA  
570.523.1540



Mondragon Bookstore is a cooperatively-owned venture, committed to bringing together ideas and people. Mondragon sells used books and records, provides a showcase for local artists, and supports a meeting room for local groups.

## What You Can Do! Six Simple Steps Anyone Can Take to Make Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling Safer

1. Join the Sierra Club and make our organization a stronger force;
2. Write to Governor Corbett expressing your support for stronger environmental regulations and concerns over safe drilling practices. (visit [governor.state.pa.us](http://governor.state.pa.us) for contact information);
3. Write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper expressing your concerns about what is happening in Pennsylvania and what should be done to protect the health of our citizens and our environment;
4. Write your state Senator and Representative during the state's budget negotiations, to show your support for natural gas extraction tax or impact fee that will reinvest back into the environment (visit [legis.state.pa.us](http://legis.state.pa.us) for contact information);
5. Start monitoring local water quality in streams threatened by new drilling; contact a local watershed group or Otzinachson Group leaders for help;
6. See the movie Gasland—organize a house party to share the film with your friends. Learn more at [gasland-themovie.com](http://gasland-themovie.com).

*The Otzinachson Group remembers the life of June Hoyle, co-founder of Merrill W. Linn Land & Water Conservancy, who passed away this past February. We honor her dedication to protecting the valuable natural resources of her community. Our condolences go out to June's family and friends.*

# Play Again: Reintroducing Our Youth the Wonders of Nature

By Samantha Pearson

What would it be like to live in a world where people spend more time in virtual reality than in nature? We already do. American teens already spend an average of almost 8 hours/day on screentime and less than 1 hour/day outside (organized sports excepted). Screens, whether the constant information feed, the social networking, music and video, or immersive gaming experiences, are very compelling companions. It can be difficult, if not impossible to wrest children from the cycle of use and internal gratification they generate and just as fraught to try to lure them into the natural world where interactions occur on such different terms.

On Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, a Lewisburg audience enjoyed a screening of a new



documentary entitled Play Again, at the Campus Theater. The film followed a group of typical plugged-in American teens in the Pacific Northwest on their first backwoods adventure. No cell phones, no video games, no MySpace – traded instead for campfires, hikes, and a home-made sweatlodge. The film interspersed footage of the teens pre, during and post journey with brief interviews with many sociologists, anthropologists and other social commentators. We meet kids who self-report their online time as 12-15 hours/day, former gamer, and “all the time”. And we hear from talking heads like Bill McKibben pointing out that screentime is very internally directed, all about the individual, the consumer, but that engaging with nature yields a very different impression, not of the individual as paramount, but as a minute piece of a much larger, more intricate whole. David Suzuki notes that we are all well-versed in the benefits of the internet which give us access to massive amounts of information, knowledge literally at our fingertips. As he puts it, “everything is there. Except reality”.

Ironically, viewers had to forgo several hours of potential outdoor experience for the screen, but they were well-rewarded. The film provided a great inside perspective on how teens live inside technology – being surprised at the need for physical exertion in the real world for example or by the lack of control in actual outdoor games – and useful strategies for keeping a balance in life between the allure of the virtual and the authentic value of the real – in particular, the idea of engaging in media fasts or digital diets in order to move beyond unconscious, default behavior and into considered action.

## Editor's Bookmarks

**Screen-Free Week**  
[commercialfreechildhood.org/  
 screenfreeweek](http://commercialfreechildhood.org/screenfreeweek)

*Take the challenge—spend 7 days turning off entertainment screen media and turning on life.*

**Children & Nature Network**  
[childrenandnature.org](http://childrenandnature.org)

*Created to encourage and support the people and organizations working nationally and internationally to reconnect children with nature.*

**Nature Rocks**  
[naturerocks.org](http://naturerocks.org)

*A national program to inspire and empower families to play and explore in nature.*

**Youth in the Great Outdoors**  
[Youthgo.gov](http://Youthgo.gov)

*Site developed through the U.S. Department of Interior in order to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders.*

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**OTZINACHSON REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB**  
**Edward Abbey Hiking Society**  
**Spring-Summer 2011 Outings Schedule**

For more information contact:

Paul Shaw, Outings Chair, 570-672-2389 pshaw@ptd.net

**Sunday, April 3: Williamsport Water Authority**

7 miles, moderate. Come join us for a beautiful early spring hike along the creeks and among the mountain laurel in the Bald Eagle Mountains near Williamsport. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Williamsport Water Authority parking lot. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Sue Wright 570-323-2411. Call Sue if you need directions.

**Sunday April 10: Loyalsock Trail**

6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8:45 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

**Saturday, April 16: Watsontown Towpath Trail**

2 miles, easy. A nature walk observing turtles, birds, and wildflowers along the towpath. Meet at 11:00 at the parking lot on the south side of the Watsontown bridge. Leader: Dave Hafer 570-523-3107. Bad weather cancels.

**Sunday, April 17: Mid State Trail**

10 miles, strenuous. We will be hiking the renowned Mid State Trail from Mohn Mill Road north to Ravensburg State Park (along Rt. 880). Meet at the parking lot behind the Lewisburg Post Office at 9 a.m. or at the park office parking lot at Ravensburg at 9:45. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw 570-672-2389 or pshaw@ptd.net.

**Sunday, May 1: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Mid State Trail south to the Fallen Timber Trail to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Saturday, May 7: Gillespie Point to Bohemian Run Falls Loop**

11 miles, strenuous. A classic hike! From Blackwell, we will climb to the top of Pennsylvania's Matterhorn, Gillespie Point with fine views of the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. After looping back to Blackwell, we will continue on the Bohemian Run Falls Trail to the West Rim Trail, then back to Blackwell on the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Meet at parking lot behind Lewisburg Post Office at 8 a.m. or boat launch parking lot in Blackwell at 9:30. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Duane Button 570-596-3454.

**Saturday, May 14: Michaux State Forest and Tumbling Run**

7.5 miles, moderate to strenuous. This loop hike features the only waterfalls in Cumberland County as well as the famous Lewis's Rocks, hideout of the notorious Lewis the Robber. On the return trip we will follow the Appalachian Trail with a stop at Camp Michaux, a former WWII Prisoner of War camp. Meet at K-Mart parking lot along Rt. 15 in Shamokin Dam at 8:15 a.m. or at the store at Pine Grove Furnace State Park at 10:00. Bring water and a lunch. Hike Leaders: Carl and Bonnie Davis (717) 532-3696 bldavis@kuhncom.net.

**Sunday, May 15: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Mid State Trail north and other trails to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday May 22: Old Loggers Path**

12 miles, strenuous. We will hike the southern section of OLP from Masten Ghost Town to Pleasant Stream Road, with fine views. Meet 8:45 at the Steam Valley Restaurant on Route 14 just off Route 15, north of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707. (We may have to add an additional 2 miles if Pleasant Stream Road remains closed as it has been for the past year).

**Sunday, June 5: Golden Eagle Trail**

9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 9:10 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

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**Sunday, June 12: R.B Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Overlook Trail and powerline to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Saturday, June 18: Rocky Knob Trail**

11 miles, strenuous. We will hike in the Michaux state forest district, north of Caledonia State Park. Access to the 4-mile Rocky Knob loop will be gained by hiking the Appalachian Trail from Dead Woman Hollow Road to Methodist Hill Road. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in the parking lot of Snyder County Produce located along Rte. 11/15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring water and lunch. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence; cathyed@nationi.net or call 570-925-5285.

**Sunday, June 19: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday, June 26: Mid State Trail**

11 miles, strenuous. We will hike one of the newest sections of the MST, a scenic traverse between Hammond Lake and Hills Creek Lake east of Wellsboro in Tioga County. Meet at parking lot behind Lewisburg Post Office at 7:30 am or along Hills Creek Road by Hills Creek State Park entrance at 9:30 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Duane Button 570-596-3454.

**Sunday, July 10: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday, July 17: R.B Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike the Overlook Trail and powerline to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday July 24: Loyalsock Trail**

6.5 miles, easy to moderate. We will hike the LT from Sones Pond to the end of the LT on Route 220 via the Haystacks. Meet 8:45 am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Leader Roy Fontaine 570-220-4707.

**Sunday, July 31: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Sunday, August 7: R.B. Winter State Park**

10 miles, moderate to strenuous. We'll hike various trails in the park and the surrounding forest to make a 10 mile loop. Meet at the breast of the dam along route 192 at 8:00 A.M. Bring food and water. Call Joe Rebar to confirm 570-259-0134. If you can't get Joe, call Paul Shaw at 570-672-2389.

**Saturday, August 20: Fourth Run Loop**

13 miles, strenuous. This loop hike will make a grand tour of the extensive trail system at Hickory Run State Park. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the McDonalds off Rte. 80 at the Mifflinville/Rt. 339 exit #242. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin and Ed Lawrence; cathyed@nationi.net or call 570-925-5285.

**Sunday, August 21: Golden Eagle Trail**

9 miles, moderate to strenuous. One of the best hikes in PA with excellent views. Meet at 8:30 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Avenue between Market and Hastings Streets (Rt. 15) in South Williamsport or at the trail parking lot along Rt. 414 at 9:10 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Roy Fontaine, 570-220-4707.

*All participants on Sierra Club outings are required to sign a standard liability waiver. If you would like to read the Liability Waiver before you choose to participate on an outing, please go to: <http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/>, or contact the Outings Department at (415) 977-5528 for a printed version.*



## Play Again (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 4)*

Though a variety of developmental psychologists were cited, there was no absolute certainty about what the global effects of such extreme screen use might be on individual brains or on society. The patchwork of effects studied to date is far from reassuring. E.g. kids who spend lots of time with screens perform significantly worse on recognition of facial expressions as signals of emotions, something even older teens are already not very good at. Further delaying these skills may have great impact on early job access and performance. The images from studies of young children spaced out in front of screens were some of the most disturbing in the film (though clips from first person shooter video games were also shocking and even the character of the advertisements to children featured were chilling, reflecting as they did a more than fifty-fold increase in money spent on advertising to children in the past 30 years).

Where does this strange, mindless

screen worship come from? The film also noted that people 40 and over, the parents of the cohort of teens in question, spend similar amounts of time daily, outside of work, engaging screens.

The biggest message by far was that screens are basically as addictive as we fear and that the hollow prizes they offer can quickly eclipse the more subtle offerings of reality. So, get outside and get out there with your friends. Keep your hold on reality. It really has a lot to offer.

Consider taking what used to be called Turn Off TV Week and has now turned into Screen Free Week ([www.screenfreeweek.org](http://www.screenfreeweek.org)) at the end of April this year (April 18-24) and doing your own digital detox, per Adbusters and the Campaign for Commercial Free Childhood. Most of the other organizations promoting the reduction of screentime have fallen fallow, victims of their own success in convincing their promoters to spend less time cultivating virtuality at the expense of vitality. ☞

## Rider Park Escapes Natural Gas Development Leasing

By Lana Gulden

Rider Park, a 868 acre site, was to be "preserved for the people to enjoy nature" by the will of Tom Rider. The area is used by birders, hikers, and bicyclist. A mile below the surface of the park is the Marcellus Shale Formation. In 2010 the threat of drilling in this natural area became public.

The Friends of Rider Park were justifiably outraged that the directors of the park would consider desecrating this natural area with gas wells, fracking fluids, forest destruction and all the other environmental assaults that accompany this industry. They posted a petition to save Rider Park on the web site [www.petitiononline.com](http://www.petitiononline.com). Two hundred signatures a day were being generated. Following an ad and an article in the Sun Gazette the number of signatures jumped to 1,000 a day. More publicity came via Face-

book, bringing not only more signatures, but volunteers. Volunteers with posters and petition forms manned tables at public events throughout the Williamsport Area. First Community Foundation of PA board members were approached in public and asked to keep the park as intended in the Tom Rider will.

In November First Community Foundation of PA members voted not to allow the gas drilling to proceed. For now the surface of the park seems to be safe for people and wildlife. However proposals for subsurface leases will be considered on a case by case basis. Rider Park and every other piece of real estate will remain vulnerable until the United States supports a true renewable energy policy. ☞



Nicole Faraguna, Editor  
Otzinachson Regional  
Group of the Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 65  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

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*The Otzinachson is pleased to present*

## ***Sierra Club National Gas Campaign***

**April 12, 2011 - 6:45 pm**

**Union County Library, Community Room  
255 Reitz Road, Lewisburg**

*We will be welcoming Deb Nardone, Director of Sierra Club Natural Gas Reform Campaign, to present a program on the National Sierra Club efforts to protect us and the environment from the considerable problems presented by natural gas development.*

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