



REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB

# Otzinachson

## Drilling Has Consequences: Tax Drilling Protect Our Land, Water & Communities

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### QUOTE

“The outgrowth of conservation, the inevitable result, is national efficiency.”

-Gov. Gifford Pinchot

The rapidly increasing natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale puts Pennsylvania's natural resources at risk. In addition to the thousands of acres of land impacted when drilling pads, access roads and pipelines are installed, drilling in the Marcellus Shale could threaten our aquatic resources and pollute our air during the process of hydraulic fracturing. Pennsylvania has the opportunity to learn from natural gas drilling experiences across the country, where there have been over a thousand cases of ground and surface water contamination as well as many cases of toxic air pollution.

Pennsylvania must implement a natural gas severance tax, with a portion of the funds going to offset these costs and invest in watershed restoration and protection, habitat conservation, public access to outdoor recreation and conservation of open space and farmland. To accomplish this, portions of the severance tax should be dedicated to the Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission, and the local governments of communities impacted by drilling activities.

Although some have proposed opening more state forestlands to drilling instead of the severance tax, this is not an acceptable alternative. Currently, 31% of state forestlands are open to drilling, yet only 2 wells have been drilled. Before leasing additional

### What you Can do:

- ✓ Visit [www.landandwater.org](http://www.landandwater.org) and Take Action;
- ✓ Contact Your Legislator and ask that they support a Severance Tax with a portion of the revenues dedicated to the Environmental Fund, Fish & Boat Commission and the Game Commission as well as local governments impacted by drilling;
- ✓ Write a letter to the Editor;
- ✓ Sign Your Organization on to the Cause;
- ✓ Volunteer and become a local leader; and
- ✓ Stay Informed! Sign up for updates at [www.landandwater.org](http://www.landandwater.org)

(Continued on page 6)



## Message from the Chair: Environmental Networking Opportunities

I hope you will all come and join us at our banquet on October 24th. We are inviting members of other environmental organizations as well as members of the public to join us and I hope that we have a great representation from the Otzinachson Group.

I hope that we on the Committee can meet and exchange ideas with many of our members. Please come join us to make the evening a great success.  
Jack

P.S. Getting your reservations (see p. 7) in early will help us in planning the logistics of the evening.

*Jack Miller, Chair*

## Ex-Com Candidates Wanted

In December, the Otzinachson will have its annual election of officers. The Group is seeking candidates interested in serving on the Group's Ex-Com committee. It is an opportunity to help guide the work of the Group and become more involved in local conservation issues. Please send a short bio along with your name and contact information to our election committee—David Young (dayoung@ptd.net) and Lana Gulden (lanagulden@yahoo.com) by November 25th.

*Visit us online:*

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

## 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.

## Otzinachson Leadership

### Executive Committee:

**Jack Miller**, Middleburg; **Chair**  
**Dave Hafer**, Lewisburg; **Vice Chair**  
**Roy Fontaine**, Watsonstown; **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).

## Attend a Meeting!!

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

## October 7 December 2

All meetings are held at  
7:15 P.M.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Meeting location has changed to the  
**Mondragon Book Store**  
**111 Market Street**  
**Lewisburg**

Please note that this location is not handicap accessible—if you can suggest a new (handicap accessible) location for the Group to meet, please contact Dave Hafer (570.523.3107) or Jack Miller (570.837.6546)

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.

## "No Ground Water Samples Have Ever Been Collected..."

By David A. Young

When Norry Neighbors (NN) of Northumberland, PA reached to Otzinachson for support, Otzinachson acted and two NN members joined the Sierra Club. Currently five NN members are Sierra Club members.

Norry Neighbors (NN) concerns have grown since the release of the final inspection report by US EPA Region 3 in July pertaining to the Northumberland landfill site which is now Pineknotter Park. On page 14 of 29 from the report it is stated that "no groundwater samples have ever been collected on the site", this statement is very alarming to NN. Also on page 14 of the report the following statement is very concerning, "The trench was engineered to intercept the leachate, allowing it to drop to the bedrock layer or mix with existing groundwater prior to discharging to the river; therefore this interceptor trench may be a source of hazardous substances present in leachate-entering the groundwater."

NN appreciates the continued support of the Otzinachson Group to help insure the proper testing is performed to test the groundwater at this site. We seek your assistance in working closely with federal regulators to weigh in on the testing methods to be conducted this fall by EPA regarding the Northumberland landfill site.

Additionally, we would like you to grease the political wheels by sending a short letter or email to your Congressperson and Senators Casey and Specter. At the EPA public meeting on July 13th, an EPA official stated that often the "solution to pollution is dilution," implying that toxic runoff into the Susquehanna River should be tolerated. Fortunately, the EPA has promised additional

testing, described as "sub-surface investigations" at the old landfill site or Pineknotter Park located in Northumberland Borough. Hopefully they will locate and test what is believed to be located in the landfill, including, hundreds of 55 gallon drums of chemicals, stacks of car batteries and transformers. According to witnesses deemed credible by the EPA, nighttime dumping occurred at this location in unknown quantities. NN would appreciate a copy of your letters and emails to your elected leaders.

Contributions are always welcome. NN also is fighting a proposed \$40,000,000 of taxpayers money for a business man and his secret partners, to build an ethanol complex in Northumberland (HB 1589 was passed and signed by Governor Rendell on July 4, 2008, It is now in Act 41 of 2008.).

Send contributions to Norry Neighbors, PO Box 229, Northumberland, PA 17857. ☒

### Help Win the Battle for Clean Energy

The Sierra Club is currently engaged in a critically important fight against climate change and is facing incredible opposition. In order to win true clean energy solutions, the Sierra Club needs you, its volunteer leaders, to commit to help on a daily, weekly or monthly basis by signing up to be a Sierra Club Climate Leader at [www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders](http://www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders).

- ✓ Signing up as Climate Leaders (man phone banks, write letters to the Editor, collect petitions, etc.)
- ✓ Sign the petition to your Senators ([sierraclub.org/bigpicture](http://sierraclub.org/bigpicture)) asking them to urge Obama to direct the EPA to create rules & regulations on coal mining, emissions, etc.
- ✓ E-mail your Senators ([action.sierraclub.org/aces](http://action.sierraclub.org/aces)) and ask them to support and strengthen clean energy and climate legislation

## Otzinachson Hosts Environmental Networking Banquet: Focus on Climate Change in Pennsylvania

The Otzinachson Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club invites individuals already involved in conservation issues and those interested in becoming more involved to attend an environmental networking banquet, October 24th in Lewisburg.

The evening will begin with a networking social hour, followed by a buffet dinner. Finally, the evening will include an informative presentation by Andrew "Andy" Pitz on the impacts of Climate Change in Pennsylvania with insights on how local organizations and individuals may become more involved in this global issue.

Pitz, a registered Landscape Architect, is Vice President of Strategic Policy and Planning for the Natural Lands Trust (NLT). Pitz has dedicated over 20 years to NLT, where he has overseen the preparation and execution of strategic plans, protection programs, and stewardship plans for hundreds of projects. Before joining NLT, Pitz was a project manager in a consulting design firm, and a landscape architect with the U.S. Forest Service.

Concerned about the impact of climate change on the conservation movement, Pitz has been researching the relationship between the land and climate change for the past several years. In January 2007, he received intensive training conducted by The Climate Project and subsequently has given over 45 climate lectures. He is frequently asked to speak on conservation and climate topics at professional conferences and seminars. He is currently working with the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association and the Land Trust Alliance and other colleagues to develop

*Join us as we learn, network  
and become inspired!*

### **Environmental Networking Banquet**

**Saturday October 24, 2009**

**La Primavera Italiano Ristorante,  
Route 45, Lewisburg**

**5:00 pm Social Hour (Cash bar)**

**6:00 pm—Dinner (\$22.50)**

**7:00 pm - Speaker Andy Pitz\***

**Please submit your reservation  
form (p. 7) by October 17,  
2009.**

*\* You may listen to the speaker for free  
without attending the dinner; you must still  
submit a reservation form (see p. 7).*

a training curriculum on Climate Change for land trusts.

The event is the first of its kind in the north central Pennsylvania region and the hope is that it will trigger dialogue around critical issues, engage new individuals, and educate and inspire those in attendance. In addition, the evening will hopefully lead to opportunities for organizations to work together and connect individuals with organizations with which they may want to become more involved. Complimentary table exhibits are available to organizations in attendance.

Reservations are required—form is on page 7 of this newsletter or can be downloaded at <http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/otzinachson/events.html>. ☞

**OTZINACHSON REGIONAL GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB**  
**Edward Abbey Hiking Society**  
**Fall 2009 Outings Schedule**

**For more information contact:**

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

**Saturday, September 12: 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).

**Sunday, September 27: 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.

**Sunday, October 4: Gillespie Point – West Rim Figure 8 Hike**

11 miles, *strenuous*. Starting at the River Runners' parking lot in the village of Blackwell, we will do a figure 8 hike, climbing to the top of Pennsylvania's Matterhorn, Gillespie Point, then crossing Pine Creek to link up with the West Rim Trail before looping back to the parking lot via the Pine Creek Rail Trail. Great views of the PA Grand Canyon! Meet at Lewisburg P.O. parking lot at 8:30 am, Harvest Moon Restaurant parking lot on Rt. 220 west of Williamsport at 9:15, or River Runners' parking lot in Blackwell at 10:45. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw, 570-672-2389 or pshaw@ptd.net.

**Saturday, October 10: Tuscarora Trail**

9 miles, *moderate-strenuous*. We will hike Big Blue from Route 233 at Colonel Denning State Park south to Cowpers Road. Meet at 9:00 am in the parking lot of Snyder County Produce located along Rt. 11-15, 10 miles south of Selinsgrove. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285 or cathyed@nationi.net.

**Sunday, October 11: 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, October 18: 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, October 25: Penns Creek Rail Trail**

4 miles, *easy*. A pleasant fall foliage walk on the Penns Creek Rail Trail through the Paddy Mountain Tunnel to the Poe Paddy bridge. Meet 11:00 at the Lewisburg P.O. parking lot. Bring snack and water. Leader: Dave Hafer 570-523-3107.

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## **Fall 2009 Outings Schedule (cont'd)**

### **Sunday, November 1: Black Forest Trail**

8 miles, *moderate*. Francis Road to Slate Run on the Black Forest Trail. Nice vistas overlooking Slate Run and Red Run. Meet 9:00 at the Lewisburg P.O. or 9:45 at the Harvest Moon Restaurant parking lot along Rt. 220, west of Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw, 570-672-2389 or pshaw@ptd.net.

### **Sunday, November 15: Delaware Water Gap**

6 miles, *moderate*. We will hike the Jersey side of the Delaware Water Gap, climbing Mt. Tammany for a gorgeous view of the Gap. Depending on trail conditions, we will walk up Dunfield Creek and return on the Appalachian Trail. Meet 9:00 am in the parking lot of the First Columbia Bank next to the Columbia Mall, Buckhorn Exit 232 off Route 80. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Dave Jansky, 570-988-0544.

### **Sunday, November 22: The Hawkeye Trail**

7 miles, *moderate*. We will hike this loop trail located north of the Old Loggers Path near Shunk. Meet at 10:00 am in the parking lot of World's End State Park nearest the Park Office along Route 154. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285 or cathyed@nationi.net.

### **Sunday, December 6: State Game Lands 13**

7 miles, *moderate*. We will access SGL 13 just north of Jamison City and, depending on conditions, walk along the east branch of Fishing Creek. Meet at 9:30 in the parking lot of the Grocery Market / Car Wash just north of Benton on Route 487. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Catherine McLaughlin / Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285 or cathyed@nationi.net.

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## **Tax Drilling (cont'd)**

acres, the state should evaluate the effect of drilling on the natural, tourism, fishing, hunting and timber resources of our state forests.

There is no evidence to support the argument that the implementation of a severance tax will keep drilling business out of our state, and so there should be not tax at all. Pennsylvania is mainly competing against states WITH natural gas severance taxes. Of the 32 states with natural gas resources, only 4 besides Pennsylvania do not have a natural gas severance tax. Except for California, in 2007, Pennsylvania had a higher marketed production than each of these states. Pennsylvania had more than 300% production than 2 of these states (NY and MD). The Marcellus Shale holds an estimated 363 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas, and most of that is under Pennsylvania. Companies can not go elsewhere to access

this valuable resource, and their continuing investments in the Marcellus Shale, even with the knowledge that a severance tax is a distinct possibility, show that a tax will not prevent Pennsylvania competing from benefiting from the economic benefits of natural gas drilling.

Given the possibility of drilling leading to serious environmental impacts, it makes sense that a portion of the proposed severance tax should be invested in Pennsylvania's natural resources.

A severance tax will go part of the way towards shifting the true costs of drilling onto those that directly profit from it's extraction. It is the responsibility of the drilling industry to pay their fair share towards protecting the resources exploited by drilling. Visit [www.landandwater.org](http://www.landandwater.org) to learn more. ☐

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# Environmental Networking Banquet

October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009, 5:00 -8:30 pm

Reservations must be received by October 17, 2009

*Featured Speaker – Andy Pitz, Natural Lands Trust*

*Climate Change in Pennsylvania*

*(see page 4 for more information on Speaker)*

## Schedule for the Evening

5-6 PM *Social Hour (Cash Bar)*

6-7 PM Dinner

7 PM *Speaker\**

## La Primavera -- Italiano Ristorante in Lewisburg

Located on Route 45 one mile west of Rt 15

## Dinner Buffet -- Three Entrees

Tortellini w/broccoli in an alfredo sauce (vegetarian)

Meat Lasagna

Chicken Marsala

Bruschetta and fresh fruit appetizer included

Salad and bread served at the table

Soda, iced tea and coffee

Dessert

✂-----

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Environmental Group Affiliation(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (if you want confirmation of reservation): \_\_\_\_\_

# Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$22.50 = Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please check box if your group would like to reserve one of the display tables being made available for setting out information (limit one per organization, available in the order in which registrations are received).

**Please make checks payable to Otzinachson Group - Sierra Club**

**Send reservation to:** Jack D. Miller, 130 Delong Road, Middleburg, PA 17842

Please reserve early to make our job easier and to secure your spot.

*\*You may come to hear the speaker for free, without attending the banquet, but you must make a reservation.*



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*

***Drilling for Gas in the Marcellus Shale: Potential or Problems***

**September 16, 2009 - 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

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

*Thomas Au, Conservation Chair of the Pennsylvania State Chapter of the Sierra Club, will provide a power-point presentation on water-related issues related to gas drilling operations, specifically wastewater treatment. Thomas has been following the regulation of Marcellus Shale drilling for the Sierra Club for the past eighteen months.*

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