



# OTZINACHSON

## Getting Motivated Locally on Global Issues

by Sam Pearson

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### NEW FALL HIKE SCHEDULE INSIDE!

### QUOTE

*I believe that there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us aright.*

- Henry David Thoreau

Over the summer a new local community organization has developed in the Central Susquehanna Valley, initially growing out of concern sparked by several public screenings of the documentary *\_The End of Suburbia\_* under the aegis of Otzinachson. To date, participants have come mostly from the audience at each of the four public events, viewers of *\_An Inconvenient Truth\_*, and some word of mouth over the summer. As a result, people who might be interested, but weren't around over the summer break, have been unintentionally excluded. This article is an attempt to rectify that situation and broadcast information be-

yond the 140 or so people already involved.

The group is still working to clarify its full mission and only just recently adopted a name: Local Action Network. It seeks to offer an option for action as a community in areas where individual choices are currently limited — such as infrastructure like power or transportation. And it has already started working to educate its members and others about issues related to peak oil, climate change and sustainability. These topics provide the impetus for action, specifically initiatives toward relocalization, that is,

*(Continued on page 7)*

### The Dirt on Lichen

If you want the dirt on the intimate association of an alga with a fungus then this is your event. Jack Stabley, a long time Sierra Club member, Naturalist and lichen enthusiast will take us deep into the inner workings of this dynamic duo of the plant realm.

Mr. Stabley's presentation will include the display of 40 to 50 lichen specimens for a first hand and up close examination and appreciation.

See back for more information on this presentation.



## Message from the Chair: Positive Change for the Future

In a recent essay, Wes Jackson, an artesian wellspring of inspiration, was commenting upon the fact that in his lifetime of 69 years, about 97% of all the oil ever burned on this earth has been burned. A person of 48, has lived through 90% of that burning, and, amazingly, a 23-year-old has lived long enough to see half the oil that has ever been burned, go up in smoke. Sometimes a thing that seemed like a real good idea at the time, like back in 1859 when Col. Drake started pumping black gold out of the soil of Western Pennsylvania, turns out to have a shadow side that casts a serious pall. That's why we need to work together to promote positive change, positive energy and renewable inspiration.

*Ed Lawrence, Chair*

### OTZINACHSON

#### Executive Committee Chairs:

**Ed Lawrence**, Orangeville; Chair  
**Nicole Faraguna**, Herndon; Vice-Chair/Newsletter Editor  
**Jack Miller**, Middleburg; Political  
**Dodie Rippon Lovett**, Herndon; Chapter Delegate/Global Warming/Human Rights  
**David Young**, Lewisburg  
**Dave Jansky**, Sunbury; Outings Chair  
**Joseph Rebar**, Shamokin; Membership/Publicity  
 Volunteer Committee Chairs:  
**Roy Fontaine**, Watsonstown; Treasurer, Publications  
**Dave Hafer**, Lewisburg; Endangered Species  
**Genley Anderson**, Williamsport; Webmaster  
**Janet Jones**, Lewisburg; Environmental Education  
**Joe Detelj**, Lewisburg; Agriculture/Cafo  
**Colette Frantz**, Northumberland; Marine/Waste  
**Richard Sehn**, Cogan Station; Water Quality/Habitats

## 2007 Sierra Club Calendars

*Remember calendar sales are our chief fundraiser, accounting for most of the Otzinachson Group's annual income.*

Two styles are available—prices below indicate member's discounted price (including sales tax):

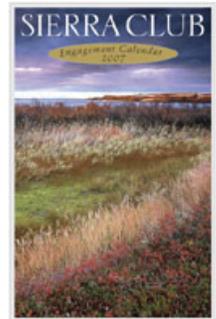
**Engagement (Large Date Book) \$ 12.50**  
**Wilderness Wall (Scenic Views) \$ 11.50**

**Shipping & Handling:** For calendars to the same address, please add \$3.50 for the first calendar and \$0.50 for each additional calendar.

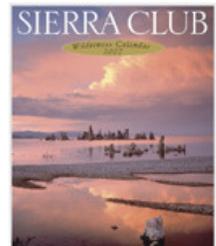
Fill out the form below. **Make checks payable to Otzinachson Group. Mail the order form below and your check to: Roy Fontaine, 2007 Calendars, 1103 Washington Ave, Lewisburg, PA 17837.**

**Ship to:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar Style	# of Calendars	Price
Engagement (\$12.50)		\$
Wilderness Wall (\$11.50)		\$
<b>Total for Calendars</b>		\$
<b>Shipping &amp; Handling</b>		\$
<b>Total Enclosed</b>		\$



**Wilderness Wall  
(Scenic Views)  
Price: \$11.50**



**Engagement  
(Large Date book)  
Price: \$12.50**



# Community-Supported Agriculture

by Joe Detelj

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) is a relatively late blooming concept in the U.S. Widely believed to be conceived in Japan by women concerned with the loss of farmland and their access to wholesome locally produced food. The women organized into a buyer's club, if you will, that paid a subscription fee in advance to the farmer for a weekly share of the season's harvest. This win-win scenarios provided the farmers a fair price for their work, a fund for working capital to buy seeds, fertilizer, etc, and the removal of the stress and uncertainty of selling their produce in a market designed to place them at a disadvantage. Free trade is not fair trade and as a consequence many farmers throughout the world are being forced off the land due to economic necessity imposed upon them by an uneven "playing field" controlled and dominated by a few international corporations.

The Japanese women who led this movement received wholesome food grown using organic methods, and they supported a local food network that was important to their sense of community and food security. In essence, it was voting with their purchasing power to preserve the culture of agriculture. The "teiki", or face of the farmer, on the food was an essential element of this movement as it connected the consumers to the land and involved them in the elemental process essential to life itself .

Recent scholarship suggests the CSA concept may have originated not in Japan but in Europe early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century influenced in great part by the writings of Rudolf Steiner( Waldorff Schools, biodynamic agricultural practices) and E.F. Schumacher ("Small Is Beautiful"). What is known however with certainty is that the recognized pioneer of CSA's in the US is Robyn Van En who organized the first CSA here, Indian Line Farm. She was an advocate and generous resource in establishing numerous CSA's until her untimely death from an asthma attack in 1997. She has

left behind or inspired a body of material as well as a number of organizations promoting this idea as any web search will demonstrate.

Three quarters of the CSA's today are Subscription CSA's in which the land, equipment, and farming practices are provided by a farmer in conjunction with varying degrees of participation by the members. The remaining CSA's are Shareholder CSA's where a non-profit corporation is formed and the assets are held by the members who purchase or hire the land, labor and equipment as required. Local circumstances will generally dictate the particular organizational structure that meets the particular needs of a community. One thing is for sure, this is a market adaptation that is growing.

"A world that supranational corporations and governments and educational systems that serve them.... control .... will be a post agriculture world. But as we now begin to see, you cannot have a post agricultural world that is not post democratic, post religious, and post natural—in other words it will post human, contrary to the best that we have meant by humanity."

*Wendell Berry ~ Conserving Communities*

As a matter of fact, organic agriculture and local organic practices though not certified sustainable farms are the only segment of the agricultural market that is growing. It is becoming increasingly apparent to most of us that global warming and escalating gas prices will require profound changes in the way we go about "business as usual". The era of Californian salad greens delivered to Eastern stores will soon come to an end because it is too costly and extravagantly wasteful of limited energy resources. Local food systems , once the way we sustained ourselves appears to be a concept that is shifting from a moral choice to a survival imperative.

The present industrial food structure will increasingly be unable to sustain us physically, emotionally, or spiritually. One viable option growing from the decay is Community Supported Agriculture an idea whose time has come again.

*Joe and Jackie Detelj own and operate Dreamcatcher Farm in the Lewisburg/Mifflinburg area. They will be offering a CSA for the 2007 season, They can be contacted at [dreamcatcherfarm@dejazzd.com](mailto:dreamcatcherfarm@dejazzd.com) for further information. ☒*

# Candidates on the Environment

*In order to assist members to make educated decisions at the voting booth, the Otzinachson Group of the Sierra Club contacted local candidates to obtain their position on environmental issues. Candidate responses have not been edited and our printed as they were received. Candidates were asked:*

**What top three environmental issues would you become actively involved with once elected or re-elected?**

## State House of Representatives, District 85

### Steve Connolley (D), Candidate

1) Land use and land development—On July 6, 2005, Governor Rendell signed into law the Agriculture, Communities and the Rural Environment (ACRE) legislation, issuing a statement that the new law will protect Pennsylvania's farmers and communities. This new law was backed by the agribusiness lobby and will shield large-scale factory farms from local restrictions. Unfortunately, it does not safeguard local residents and communities from factory farm pollution. In fact, it makes it easier for factory farms to force their way into communities. I am deeply troubled by this legislation. Local residents and communities must have the power to protect themselves and the public health from environmental effects of factory farms and other large-scale agricultural developments. I will work to empower township supervisors and other community officials to respond to the very real concerns of residents who are faced with the effects of developments of factory farms, shopping malls, high-density residential and other locally unwanted land uses.

2) Alternative and renewable fuels—To become energy self-sufficient, we must invest in the infrastructure to produce and distribute alternative fuels. Pennsylvania's farms have the capacity to produce the corn, beets, and other crops, along with abundant cellulose-rich biomass, necessary for conversion into bio-fuels. In addition, Northumberland, Schuylkill, and Carbon Counties have abundant reserves of coal and coal by-products. Pennsylvania also holds great promise in the areas of wind and solar power production. As we expand these sources and create new markets for alternative fuels, we will also create jobs, promote our farm and mining communities, and clean the environment. The Rendell administration has made significant progress developing alternative fuels in the Commonwealth. I will fully support the governor's initiatives.

3) Renewable and efficient technologies—High energy costs disproportionately impact rural regions such as ours. I will focus on opportunities to assist the public and private sectors and citizens within my district embrace efficient and renewable energy technologies and practices that reduce operating costs, reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and provide new economic opportunities for every segment of our region, especially the agricultural community. For example, our agri-

cultural and wood industries can provide feedstock for biomass and bio-fuel technologies. Schools, local governments, businesses and home owners can benefit from the renewable and efficient energy technologies and design practices embodied in "green buildings." These new markets are all around us. "Homegrowing" this expertise and technology in our region will enable us to deal with high energy costs while positioning ourselves in a leadership position in the emerging energy economy.

### Rep. Russell H. Fairchild (R), Incumbent

1) I have been involved from the beginning and will continue to support the Susquehanna Greenway Project. This is a project that will provide linkage along our great and historic Susquehanna River and its tributaries. This 500 mile project will link communities and people together bringing into focus natural, cultural, historic, environmental and recreational opportunities. These opportunities can only be realized by combining the wisdom and input from small watershed groups and communities, while also having the ability to bring the total "500 mile picture" into view.

2) In my capacity as chairman of the Susquehanna River Legislative Caucus and a member of the tri-state Chesapeake Bay Commission, I will continue working with Representative Merle Phillips, Governor Rendell, and other state and federal officials to restore shad and other fish passage to the upper reaches of the Susquehanna River. The construction of fish passage facilities at the dams in the lower Susquehanna River has enabled many American shad and other migratory fish species to return to their historic spawning water in the Susquehanna and its tributaries. Unfortunately, this migration stops at Sunbury. Installation of the passageway will provide many environmental and economic benefits to the Upper Susquehanna region, and is key to meeting the Commonwealth's commitment to living resources under the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement. Additionally, completion of the passageway will fulfill a condition of the original permit for the dam issued 40 years ago in 1966 and open hundreds of miles of river to migration. By meeting its own regulatory requirements, the Commonwealth should demonstrate leadership at a time when we are asking more of others in the name of environmental and economic improvement. Furthermore, delays only continue to increase the cost of the project.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Candidates on the Environment

(Continued from page 4)

3) A third priority is to re-introduce and insure passage of Legislation that would allow Pennsylvania voters to decide if certain tax credits should be awarded to promote land conservation efforts. Preservation and conservation of natural lands is an important part of our quality of life as well as a way to protect our environment for generations to come. A way to encourage more individuals to donate land for these efforts is by offering tax credits and lowering their tax burden. Since the legislation deals with taxation issues and seeks to provide a tax exemption, or credit, the state constitution must be amended to allow for land conservation tax credits. This requires that the measure be brought before the voters for their approval. Specifically, my legislation would allow the General Assembly to establish standards and qualifications for state tax credits for individuals who grant fee simple or other titled interests in forest, agricultural, or open space land to a government or charitable entity for the purpose of conservation. Pennsylvania already has in place a model program for agricultural land preservation, but many other states are supplementing public funding programs with private incentives to conserve even more land. Fiscal experts and environmentalist agree that tax credits are well-established fiscal tools for advancing important policy objectives, such as land conservation. There are many benefits to conserving land, including improved water quality, groundwater recharge, natural stream flow, wildlife habitat, as well as less demand for public infrastructure and local government services. In addition, parks and recreation projects as well as maintenance of cultural, historic and scenic heritage also benefit greatly from conserved land and open space.

## State House of Representatives, District 108

### Rep. Merle Phillips (R), Incumbent

My three priorities will continue to be:

- 1) The completion of the Fish Passageway, at Sunbury, in order to restore shad to the North and West Branches of the Susquehanna River.
- 2) Continue work on improving and expanding the Greenway System along the Susquehanna River.
- 3) Continue efforts to fund and expand cleanup of streams impacted by acid mine drainage.

### Dodie Rippon-Lovett (Green), Candidate

1) I would hope to bring the message of Global warming home to the regular citizen. It has been fed to them so slowly and with so much misinformation, people are unsure what to believe. We need local public meetings and rational discussion about what is already happening and what we can still do to lessen the impact of earth changing weather.

2) Secondly I would help get the word out to my area about the true cost of urban sprawl and loss of productive farm land, wetlands and watersheds.

3) Finally I would be a strong advocate of sustainable agriculture and community supported agricultural projects.

### Tony Micetti (D), Candidate

1) The first is in regards to a combination of the above noted issues : clean air, global warming, water pollution and acid rain - Pennsylvania will need to start using it's greatest natural resource to fight the energy crisis, and that means converting coal into diesel fuel. The process of converting coal into fuel can release sulphuric and carbon based gases that create acid rain and lead to global warming. Therefore, the technology must be implemented and used in, for example coal scrubbers, reducing emissions to strict EPA ppm standards. While this process of converting coal into bio-fuel will create new jobs, and decrease our reliance on foreign fuel, it will also increase point source pollution of lakes and streams as well as underground water springs - thus, all waste water from the coal conversion plants will need to be monitored closely as well.

2) The second issue pertains to clean air and carbon gas emissions from all sources, manufacturing, automobiles, power generation plants. Even if the United States government will not agree to the Kyoto Protocol, it is important that Pennsylvania lead the way nationally in reducing air pollution, for healthier children and our future in attempting to reverse global warming. We will have to initiate stricter standards sooner than later for emissions, so let Pennsylvania lead the way.

3) The third issue is a major concern to the residents of Central Pennsylvania, of which a large portion are avid hunters. The insurance industry has pressured the Pennsylvania Game Commission into issuing excessive permits for white-tailed deer and extending the hunting season too long. This has created an under-population in deer, not only impacting the sport of hunting, but also the habitat of deer and their predators. We should return to a shortened season for deer hunting and limiting the number of doe permits. ☞

## Attend a Meeting!

Otzinachson Group, PA Sierra Club 2006 Meetings

**October 3 & December 5**

All meetings will be held at 7:00 P.M.  
1st Baptist Church -51 S. 3rd St., Lewisburg

**Directions available**

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/Otzinachson>

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

## Otzinachson Regional Group of the Sierra Club Edward Abbey Hiking Club—Fall 2006 Outings Schedule

**Saturday, September 23: Bike Ride – Pine Creek Rail Trail** -We will ride approximately 20 miles on the beautiful Pine Creek Rail Trail commencing at the southern terminus and riding to Waterville and return. Meet at the southern terminus at Railroad Street in Jersey Shore at 11:00 am. Bring water and a snack. Call Richard Lange, 753-3647, for more information.

**Sunday, September 24: Golden Eagle Trail** -Rated one of the best hikes in Pennsylvania, this hike has everything: views, streams and history, a great nature outing. Moderate to strenuous, 9 miles. Meet at 9:00am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Ave., between Market and Hasting (Route 15), South Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Contact Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987.

**Saturday, September 30: The Appalachian Trail** -This hike will take us on the AT along Blue mountain ridge to where it accords at Hawk Mountain during the peak season of raptor migration. We will hike from Route 309 to Hawk Mountain Road. 12 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00 am at the Pilot service station at the Route 93 exit off of Route 80, east of Berwick. Bring lunch and water. Contact Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence, 570-925-5285

**Sunday, October 1: Duboistown Water Company Hike** -This 6 mile hike goes past the old Remington Estate built in the mid 1800's. Basically a level hike crossing old stone bridges and rated easy. Meet at 10:00 am at the Sovereign Bank parking lot, Southern Ave., between Market and Hasting (Route 15), South Williamsport. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Merrily Frey, 570-326-3907.

**Thursday, October 5: Cherry Run Rail Trail** -We will walk on the Cherry Run Rail Trail from the Fish Commission Parking lot through the tunnel, crossing Penns Creek, to the "missing bridge" and return. 6 easy miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Union County Library parking lot, 255 Reitz Blvd. off Route 45 at 9:00am. Leader: Debbie Meade - 570-523-7543.

**Sunday, October 8: Old Loggers Path** -We will hike the southern section of the OLP from Masten Ghost Town to Pleasant Stream Road. 12 miles, moderate to strenuous, with fine views. Meet 9:00am at the Ralston Post Office on Route 14. Bring lunch and water. Contact Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987.

**Sunday, October 22: Loyalsock Trail** - We will hike the LT from Sone's Pond to the end of the LT at Route 220, passing the Haystacks. 6.5 miles, easy to moderate. Meet 10:00am at the McDonald's in Hughesville. Bring lunch and water. Severe weather cancels. Leader: Roy Fontaine 570-523-0987.

**Saturday, October 28: The Switchback Railroad at Mauch Chunk** - This hike will take us to the outskirts of present day Jim Thorpe to hike the historic railroad grades that inspired the roller coaster rides of today. We will hike a loop that begins and ends at Mauch Chunk Lake Park. 11 miles, moderate to strenuous. Meet at 9:00am in the parking lot of First Columbia Bank next to the Columbia Mall at the Buckhorn exit of Route 80. Bring lunch and water. Contact Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285.

**Sunday, October 29: Cherry Run Rail Trail** - We will walk on the Cherry Run Rail Trail from the Fish Commission Parking lot through the tunnel, crossing Penns Creek, to the "missing bridge" and return. 6 easy miles. Bring lunch and water. Meet at the Union County Library parking lot, 255 Reitz Blvd. off of Route 45 at 9:00am. Leader: Debbie Meade – 570-523-7543.

**Sunday, November 5: Appalachian Trail** - We will hike the AT from Eckville to Hamburg Reservoir via the Pinnacle, 10 miles. Moderate. This is a popular hike featuring the spectacular Pinnacle and fall hawk migration. Meet behind Lewisburg Post Office at 9:00 am. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Paul Shaw pshaw@ptd.net 570-672-2389.

**Sunday, November 12: Mid State Trail** - We will hike the MST from Morris to Blackwell, 10 miles, moderate. This is one of the newest additions to the Mid State Trail and features vistas into the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and a dramatic passage alongside Stony Fork. Bring lunch and water. Meet behind the Lewisburg Post Office at 9:00am or at the Silver Moon parking lot along Route 220 (between Williamsport and Jersey Shore) at 9:45am. Leader: Paul Shaw, 570-672-2389; pshaw@ptd.net

### **Sunday, November 26: Appalachian Trail in New Jersey**

This hike is ridge walking on the Kattatinny Ridge on the Appalachian Trail from the Millbrook-Blairstown Road, south passing Sunfish Pond to the Dunfield Creek parking area, about 10 miles moderate for length. Meet 8:30am at the Columbia Bank outside the Columbia Mall, Buckhorn Exit 232 off Route 80. Bring lunch and water. Leader: David Jansky 570-988-0544

### **Sunday, December 10: Ricketts Glen State Park**

Our hiking route will depend on weather conditions. 7 miles, moderate. Meet at 10:00 am in the parking lot of the Ricketts Glen Hotel, located 1 mile east of Red Rock on Route 118. Bring lunch and water. Contact Catherine McLaughlin/Ed Lawrence 570-925-5285.



## Getting Motivated... (cont'd)

rejuvenation of local economies, development of local power generation and strengthening the local food supply network. Stewardship of the environment, belief in conservation, desire for robust community, pursuit of rational land use, and the idea that a sustainable lifestyle could easily be the default and desired norm rather than outsider behavior are all part of what this new group plans to promote locally.

We have already been asked to participate in the updating of the Union County Comprehensive Plan, beginning this fall. At an individual level, we will be offering small group discussion courses on sustainability to the public this fall (provided by the Northwest Earth Institute, [www.nwei.org](http://www.nwei.org)). These courses give those interested a broad exposure to the general concepts of sustainability and related topics as well as suggestions for further study. On a less theoretical, more practical level, we are also currently adapting a program begun in Madison, WI called Environmental Action Teams, or EnAct, for local use. This program guides participants through a series of exercises assessing their own ecological footprints and making positive, personalized changes to reduce their impact. This will also be available for general use. At the same time, we are internally, as a group, continuing to explore, consider and research the implications of peak oil and the possibilities for relocalization. As part of this, we are assembling resources and materials to help us educate ourselves. Examples include the film "The Power of Community: How Cuba Survived Peak Oil," the book "The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices: Practical Advice from the Union of Concerned Scientists," and yet another discussion course entitled "The Natural Step for Communities."

For some, the interconnections between all these topics is self-evident; for others, it is more confusing and less convincing. The film we were promoting earlier this year did a fairly good job of tying all of it to-

gether, but it did so in a somewhat pneumatic fashion. Now we are ready to move away from being an "End of Suburbia group" and into being a community resource. Besides, that film has been deemed too depressing; we need action! We welcome interested individuals who may want to contribute their perspective, learn more, or just spectate for now. You don't have to have seen *The End of Suburbia* (though you are welcome to borrow a copy), just be interested in community resiliency and creative, human-scaled responses to environmental issues.

Group meetings are typically the third Monday of the month, at 8:30 pm, in rotating locations in Lewisburg. If you would like to find out the site of the next meeting or otherwise hear more about the group, please email Sam Pearson at [sam\\_z\\_pearson@yahoo.com](mailto:sam_z_pearson@yahoo.com) or call 570-522-8159. ☞

***NOW PLAYING . . .***

# *The End of Suburbia*

*Sponsored by  
Lycoming Environmental  
Awareness Foundation (LEAF)*

**7PM on October 11th  
Lecture Hall  
Fine Arts Building  
Lycoming College**



Nicole Faraguna, Editor  
Otzinachson Regional  
Group of the Sierra Club  
P.O. Box 65  
Lewisburg, PA 17837  
[www.sierraclub.org/  
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A unique opportunity to learn about a unique relationship

## A PASSION FOR LICHENS

*or Lichens, a Mutually Beneficial Partnership through symbiosis by a  
controlled parasitism of the algae by the fungus*

a presentation by Jack Stabley

Tuesday, Dec 5th at 7:30  
upstairs at the BULLFROG Brewery  
229 West 4th Street, Williamsport  
(across from the Community Arts Center)