



THE OHIO SIERRAN

A Publication of the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club

<http://ohio.sierraclub.org>



SIERRA CLUB

FOUNDED 1892

Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

November/December 2009

Vote NO on Issue 2!

By Laurel Hopwood, Ohio Sierra Club Agriculture Co-Chair

Did you know? Most animals on your dinner plate are raised in extremely small crates or cages where they can barely move around. Big agribusiness wants to keep it this way and, through political power plays, streamlined action through the Ohio General Assembly. As a result, Ohio voters will consider a proposed constitutional amendment on the November 3rd ballot that would create an industry-dominated board to develop and enforce guidelines for the care and shelter of livestock and poultry.

Although it sounds good on paper, it isn't. An industry-dominated board would oversee the treatment of livestock in animal factories. The Ohio Constitution is an inap-

propriate place to conduct business. The big issue is that this action thwarts efforts to bring about significant change in Ohio.

A June 26, '09 Columbus Dispatch editorial had this to say: "Don't use the state constitution to set livestock-care rules or other detailed policies ... Consumer views on how food is raised are evolving and will continue to do so. That's why government's agricultural policies should be set by statute, where they can be debated and changed relatively easily through the normal legislative process. Changing the constitution requires a statewide vote of the people, making it an unwieldy tool for day-to-day regulation."

The controversy over Issue 2 isn't simply about a more humane way to raise livestock. It's about Ohio's rural families who are imprisoned with foul odors from live-

stock factories in their communities. It's about Ohio families drinking water contaminated with harmful bacteria because of manure runoff from these factories. And it's about Ohioans who are sickened by the reality of pigs, chickens and calves jammed into cages where they spend their lives unable to move about.

It's ridiculous that instead of working for a better system of raising animals, agribusiness will spend close to \$7 million to get its favored oversight system enshrined our state's constitution. Ohioans concerned about the environment, public health, and animal welfare should vote "no" on Issue 2 this November. Activists are needed to counter the slanted information! To help, please contact me, Laurel Hopwood at:

lhopwood@roadrunner.com ♦

Sierra Club Call to Action on Global Warming and Energy

We are at a historic crossroads in the fight against climate change. The Sierra Club is asking its activists and chapters to help in this critically important fight by committing to daily, weekly or monthly actions as a

Sierra Club Climate Leader. Please go to: www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders and sign up.

Our first priority is an education campaign to encourage people to support the Obama Administration's use of rules and regulations by the EPA and other agencies to address climate change. We call this campaign "the Big Picture." Using a very successful online petition and massive phone call outreach, activists are asking Senators to urge President Obama to create rules as quickly as possible that will regulate coal ash, mercury, mining, soot, smog, and carbon pollution more effectively. Visit the Big Picture Campaign to learn more: www.sierraclub.org/bigpicture.

Our other campaign, also dependent on your hard work, focuses on passing strong comprehensive climate and energy legislation in Congress. Earlier this year, the U.S. House of Representatives took the first step to-

ward unleashing a true clean energy revolution by passing the American

Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES or Waxman/Markey). Our attention is now on the Senate, where our Senators have started discussing their version of the bill and will begin voting in early fall. We urge Senators to strengthen this bill and ensure that it creates good, clean energy jobs; makes polluters pay for the carbon pollution that causes global warming; and provides assistance for energy costs.

We need your help to get people to say to their Senators, "Support a strong clean energy and climate bill." This will not only clean up pollution domestically, but help the United States lead the world at the international climate treaty talks in Copenhagen. Visit the ACES homepage: www.action.sierraclub.org/aces.

It is time to commit to create a groundswell of support for clean energy and global warming priorities. **Sign up to become a Climate Leader and invite ten friends to do the same:**

www.sierraclub.org/climateleaders ♦

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SIERRA CLUB, OHIO CHAPTER

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Chair	Enid Nagel
Vice Chair	Mary Beth Lohse
Treasurer	Linda Reeder
Secretary	open

At-Large

Melanie Braithwaite
David Gaines
Jean Godby
Mary Beth Lohse
Pat Marida
Pat McKenna
Eileen Matias
Enid Nagel
Tony Szilagye

Group Representatives

Appalachian Ohio	Dana Carlson/Lorraine McCosker
Central Ohio	Ryan Mason
Miami	Chris Curran
Northeast Ohio	Jane Halbedel
Portage Trail	John Broida/Dan Nelson
Salt Springs	George Peya
Western Lake Erie	Eric Britton/Cindy Warner

Conservation Committee

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Agriculture	Laurel Hopwood/Teri Reinhart
Coal	Jean Godby
Energy	David Gaines
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Environmental Justice	Marti Sinclair
Forest and Public Lands	Bob Kyle/Lorraine McCosker
Human Rights	Rich Clark
Nuclear Issues	Pat Marida
Toxics	Marti Sinclair
Transportation	Eileen Matias

Administrative and Program Committees

Ch. Delegate/Council of Club Leaders	Mary Beth Lohse/ Lorraine McCosker
Legal Chair	Marti Sinclair
Newsletter Editor and Layout	Earl Clausson
Political	Melanie Braithwaite
Political Treasurer	Pam Brim
Steering	Enid Nagel, Mary Beth Lohse, Lorraine McCosker, Pat McKenna, Tony Szilagye

Executive and Conservation Committee Schedule

Nov. 15, 2009 and Jan. 16-17, 2010

Meetings will normally be held at the Chapter office, 131 N. High St., Columbus. Please call the Chapter office 614-461-0734 to confirm meeting location and times. *Call Enid Nagel if you'd like to help!*

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OHIO SIERRAN deadline Nov. 21, 2009. Unsolicited articles will be considered. Articles originating from Ohio Chapter committees or relating to the work of the Chapter will have publication priority. Submissions to Earl Clausson at earlclausson@yahoo.com. *Newsletters reach members approximately six weeks after deadline.*

Aveda Institute Raises \$25,000 for Clean Water Campaign Program Goes Statewide in 2010

By Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator

For the past three years, the Aveda Institute Columbus has awarded funds to the Ohio Chapter's Clean Water Campaign through their annual Earth Month activities. The Clean Water Campaign will receive \$25,000 this year for central Ohio activities, thanks to Aveda's 2009 Earth Month fundraising efforts. In 2010, Aveda Corporation would like to expand our partnership to the statewide level, which means that we can expand our clean water program. This presents an exciting opportunity to increase our impact in multiple watersheds throughout the state.

Aveda funding allows Sierra Club to promote cleaner water and healthier communities in central Ohio by encouraging individuals, business, and city government to take

actions that conserve and protect our waterways. We involve our members and the public in community events like river cleanups and training workshops. We also serve as a watchdog to ensure that local sewer improvement plans are moving forward and achieving clean water goals. Finally, we work with local partners to encourage sustainable land-use and green infrastructure solutions, with the goal of protecting our waterways from sewer overflows and polluted runoff.

The Clean Water Campaign is also working with the Sierra Club's Water Sentinels Program. Through this partnership, we will host a water monitoring workshop on October 17 to learn about local waterways and how we can identify pollution problems through monitoring. In the future, we will

call on those volunteers to take water samples from the Olentangy River so we can bring water pollution issues to light. We would like to expand our water quality monitoring program in 2010, so stay tuned for more information.

Aveda demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental stewardship through their business practices and we are honored by the opportunity to expand our partnership in 2010. The Ohio Chapter will roll out new clean water programs next spring, and we invite you to join our Water Quality Committee. The committee will meet by phone, with occasional in-person meetings, to start planning statewide programming. For more information, please contact Brandi Whetstone at 614-461-0734 ext. 311, or email brandi.whetstone@sierraclub.org. ♦

Create an Environmental Legacy.

Bequests have played a key role in the Sierra Club's environmental successes over the years.

Planning now may make your gift more meaningful and reduce taxes on your estate. We have many gift options available. We can even help you plan a gift for your local Chapter. For more information and confidential assistance, contact:

Tom H. Nagel
1570 Fishing Rd., Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43221

614-294-6722
tomnagel@iwaynet.net



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club Policy on Carbon Capture and Sequestration

By Tony Szilagye, Chapter Conservation Chair

The reality of coal as a very dirty, polluting source of energy is dawning on politicians and business executives throughout the country. Many have presented "carbon capture and sequestration" (CCS) as the great hope for the continued use of coal as one of our primary sources of baseload electric power. A CCS facility would capture the carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the coal burning process and then store it underground to avoid releasing it into the atmosphere. Worldwide, 120 CCS projects are underway, and there is even a proposal for a facility in Darke County, Ohio.

Although some people have high hopes for carbon capture and sequestration, there are also mountain-high challenges to bringing it online. One is cost – it is estimated that an extra 10 to 40 percent more coal would have to be burned to power the CCS system in a power plant. Another challenge is keeping the CO₂ from leaking out of its sequestered location. There are three places carbon can be stored. One is depleted oil and gas reservoirs. CO₂ that was used to recover hard to access oil and gas has been sequestered in depleted

oil and gas reservoirs for some time. But there could be problems with possible interaction between CO₂ and minerals whereby seepage of CO₂ could occur. Another place of sequestration is in old coal beds. Here

again the potential for leaks in these seams is an issue and could be a big drawback. Saline formations also are an option for sequestration, but the potential for leakage to the atmosphere or into drinking water could occur. CO₂ leakage to the earth's surface could kill people. In certain concentrations, CO₂ can kill people in a breath or two. Check out the Fact Sheet on the Basics of Carbon Capture, at the Club's website www.SierraClub.org/energy.

Where does the Sierra Club stand on issue of CCS? Sierra Club policy allows for research on CCS facilities, but cautions we should not depend on this technology to solve all of our problems as it is energy intensive and expensive. Any project of this type also must answer to questions concerning environmental justice. Focusing our efforts and investments on energy efficiency is quick, easy, cheap and will produce far more jobs. The Chapter Conservation Committee began discussing the Darke County proposed facility at the September 20 meeting. If you want to have input into this process contact, Tony Szilagye, Conservation Chair. ♦

You Can Help Save An American Icon: Utah's Red Rock Canyonlands

The red rock canyonlands of southern Utah is one of our nation's most magnificent wild landscapes. The land is a layer-cake sedimentary geology, where ancient sand dunes form massive cliffs and domes that range starkly in color, from white to deep, brick red. Here, the great Colorado and Green Rivers have sliced deep, broad canyons through the yielding sandstone. Ephemeral streams have cut slot canyons so narrow you can touch both sides with outstretched arms.

This was the last place in the lower 48 states to be mapped and it remains a remote area where the human imprint on nature is at a minimum – the largest unprotected network of wild lands outside of Alaska. If you've been there, you know the vast landscapes and ancient Native American cultural sites feel like a connection to eternity.

Unfortunately leftover policies from the Bush administration still allow illegal and inappropriate use of off-road vehicles, and efforts to extract the minimal amounts of oil and gas or the potentially larger amounts of oil shale may yet cause extensive damage. The U.S. Geological Survey has cited the dust caused by off-road vehicle activity and developments associated with resource extraction as a key factor complicating the damage caused by climate change to the southwest's dwindling water supply. The Obama administration needs to stand and deliver on the opportunity to reverse President Bush's "No More Wilderness" policy which precludes the Bureau of Land Management from increasing wilderness protection in Utah and across the country.

Congress also has the means to take action. "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" has been re-introduced into Congress in the Senate (S.799) by Richard Durbin of Illinois and in the House (HR 1925) by Maurice Hinchey of New York and would protect 9.4 million acres of wild lands in southern and western Utah. A small portion of these lands



was recently protected by the "Omnibus Public Lands Bill" which passed Congress last January. It is time to finish the job.

For more information and to email your Congressman to ask her/him to cosponsor "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" please go to www.sierraclub.org/utahwilderness/ or contact the Sierra Club's National Utah Wilderness Team via Bob Jordan at bobjord@earthlink.net or Clayton Daughenbaugh at claytonhd@xmission.com).

You can also help by sending a letter to the Interior Department asking them to revoke President Bush's "No More Wilderness" policy which prevents the Bureau of Land Management from providing additional wilderness protection for the wild lands under its jurisdiction. Send your letters to: Deputy Secretary David Hayes; U.S. Dept. of the Interior; 1849 'C' St., NW; Washington, DC 20240. ♦

Sign up for our FREE action alert system!

The Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club has created an ONLINE Action Alert system to assist in helping Ohio's environment. The Ohio Action Network is a fast, easy, and amazingly effective way for you to make a difference. With this free service, you can contact elected officials and others to make your opinion count. If you sign up, you will receive an e-mail on a current environmental issue in Ohio about ONCE PER MONTH. If you decide to reply to the action alert, you will be given a sample letter that you can automatically fax back to the appropriate public official FREE OF CHARGE.

To sign up, visit <http://ohio.sierraclubaction.org>

Ohio Chapter Retreat - January 16-17 *All are welcome!*

The annual Ohio Chapter Retreat will be held on January 16 and 17. We will be posting the location and other details on the Ohio Chapter website soon. We plan great sessions on energy, transportation issues, water issues, CAFOs, forests, coal, and nuclear issues. We will have a hike early Saturday afternoon. Overnight accommodations will be provided. Break-

fast, lunch, and dinner will be provided on Saturday. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on Sunday. Accommodations and food are free to attendees. Mileage will not be reimbursed.

This retreat is open to any Ohio Chapter member who is interested in attending. We plan to begin on Saturday and Sunday with breakfast at 8:30 am. The meetings will start at 9:00 am on both days. We plan to end by 3 pm on Sunday.

If you plan to attend, please notify Enid Nagel: Email: enidsierra@yahoo.com
Call: 513-886-0333

Check out our new Chapter website at www.ohiosierraclub.org. All the latest news, action alerts and events are right there at the click of a mouse.

WANTED: GREEN BUILDERS!

Sustainable and efficient building practices are critical to cleaning our environment and promoting good-paying green jobs! As the Ohio Chapter continues to push for stronger building codes and other sustainable building policies, we need all the help we can get! We need builders, contractors, and architects who can submit testimony about the value of green buildings in both residential and commercial settings, write letters-to-the-editor, and demonstrate successes with incorporating efficiency and renewable technologies into building practices. For more information, contact Jen Miller at jennifer.miller@sierraclub.org or 614.461.0734 ext 304.



Sierra Club Recognizes Former Superintendent of Cuyahoga Valley NP

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Superintendent John Debo received the Club's Distinguished Service Award from President Alison Chin at the awards banquet, September 26. The Ohio Chapter's Portage Trail Group nominated Debo to recognize his creative leadership over more than two decades. Debo recently retired from the National Park Service to become development director of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association.

Sierra Club Members Resign in Protest from Piketon Advisory Board

By Lee Blackburn, Ohio Sierra Club Nuclear Team Member

On August 6, 2009, three Sierra Club members announced their resignations in protest from the Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) at the monthly meeting of that Board at Piketon. The SSAB, chartered in 2008 through the Federal Advisory Committee Act, is a stakeholders' board that provides advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on environmental remediation, waste management, decommissioning and decontamination, future land use and related issues at the Piketon, Ohio nuclear reservation.

In a statement presented to the Board and sent to the DOE headquarters, Lee Blackburn, Andrew Feight and Lorry Swain stated that the SSAB's mission has been undercut by the DOE's failure to guard the Board from conflicts of interest, and by the DOE's omission of the SSAB from the most significant decisions affecting future use and clean-up levels of the site.

The three stated that their continuation on the Board would contribute to a false impression that the Federal Advisory Committee Act is being strictly enforced in an open, procedurally-fair process where all stakeholders have a voice in making informed recommendations on future use and clean-up levels at the site.

DOE *Conflict of Interest Guidance* requires that SSAB members not be contractor employees and that Board members refrain from participating in any matter "that is or gives the appearance of being motivated by the desire for private, professional, or financial gain." Yet the Board contains contractor employees and DOE has not asked any SSAB members or DOE contractor employees to recuse themselves from participating in Board matters, despite the clear appearance of conflicts of interest. Additionally, while SSAB operating procedures require that each Board member serve on at least one committee, DOE has permitted exceptions to that rule without explanation.

For several months these Board members had requested the DOE contract the services of The Perspectives Group to work with Board committees and shareholder communities. The Perspectives Group has successfully assisted other DOE advisory boards and dozens of citizens' advisory boards with community participation, decision process

planning, facilitation and other needed training. In refusing to honor this request, DOE violates FACA law that calls for broad public involvement and Board access to training needed to carry out their mission.

In October 2008, the DOE's Environmental Management Office put forth a "white paper" outlining a concept known as the Energy Parks Initiative (EPI), whereby DOE's radioactively contaminated sites undergoing clean-up would have designed tracts of land transferred to third parties for development as Energy Parks. This would reduce DOE's "footprint" on the site, thereby reducing DOE's future obligation and liability. Ostensibly rolled out to include, among other energy technologies, solar, wind, biomass, geothermal and hydrogen generation as well as nuclear power, the only proposals championed so far have all been nuclear.

Under the guise of the EPI, the DOE is currently processing an application by the Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance (SOCEPA), a consortium of Duke Energy, the French nuclear firm Areva, USEC Inc., Unistar Nuclear Energy, and the Southern Ohio Diversification Initiative (SODI), to site a nuclear power plant at the reservation. Although the SSAB was never consulted on this matter, several members of the SSAB employed by DOE contractors involved in SOCEPA were working without the Board's knowledge to help secure the nuclear reactor proposal. A nuclear reactor would by definition include "interim" storage of spent nuclear fuel at Piketon. This violates a Future Land Use Recommendation, unanimously passed by the SSAB in March 2009, against interim storage of spent nuclear fuel at Piketon.

Since the nuclear plant announcement on June 18, 2009, the DOE has not called any meetings to communicate with the SSAB or the community on the proposed plant or the Energy Park. At the same time, workshops on Energy Parks have taken place at DOE's Savannah River, Georgia site, and presentations to the public have been made at DOE's Oak Ridge, Tennessee reservation and elsewhere.

On the same day the announcement for the reactor was made, a spokeswoman for Duke Energy said there's no firm commitment by Duke or its partners to build a nu-

clear plant at Piketon. In addition, at the time of the announcement, the five members of SOCEPA didn't know how big an ownership role each would assume. Further, Duke was unable to offer up a timetable for completion or an estimate of costs to complete it. Nor has anything more been said by any of the members of SOCEPA about the nuclear plant.

Conjecture has it that the power plant announcement was made to shore up the perceived need for a \$2 billion loan guarantee for USEC, the corporation seeking a taxpayer-funded loan guarantee from the DOE. The money would help complete USEC's uranium enrichment plant (known as the American Centrifuge Plant, or ACP) now being built at Piketon. The ACP has more than doubled in cost—from \$1.7 billion to \$3.5 billion—since its announcement, and has put a severe financial strain on USEC. Unfortunately for USEC, on July 28, shortly after the nuclear plant announcement, the DOE denied the loan guarantee request, saying the ACP is neither technologically nor financially viable. At the same time however, the DOE offered up \$45 million to support ongoing ACP research and development activities in order to provide USEC additional time to strengthen the technical and financial aspects of the application.

Last October, SODI made a request of DOE for the title transfer of 340 acres of land at the Piketon reservation from DOE to SODI. The three resigning Board members have challenged that DOE is proceeding with the transfer in violation of both the Code of Federal Regulations, *10 CFR Part 770* and the site's *2005 End State Vision*. Since their challenge had been ignored by DOE, a letter was written by the resigned Board members to the site manager and copied to DOE Secretary Steven Chu outlining the various violations of *10 CFR Part 770*, including the requirement the land first be identified to the public as available for transfer. ♦

pitch a tent with
someone you love



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To sign up, visit <http://ohio.sierraclubaction.org>

Moving?

Send address changes to:

Sierra Club
P.O. Box 52968
Boulder, CO 80322-2968

or email to:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

**Don't forget to register to vote
in your new precinct!**

Celebrate AMERICA RECYCLES DAY by making your workplace more green. Our sponsor, **ECHO TAPE**, will once again be donating a portion of sales to Sierra Club on the week of November 15th. If you or your company uses tape media to back-up and store information, **ECHO TAPE** can help you save money and protect the environment. As a provider of certified, recycled tape media, this Ohio company has customers throughout the country, was nominated for the 2008 Green Innovation Awards, and provides a warranty for all its products. Rather than contribute to landfill waste, make a difference by contacting ECHO at RFI@echo-tape.com or (877) DIG-ECHO. You support the Sierra Club Ohio Chapter's legislative efforts at the same time!

Volunteers Needed!

Grassroots action is the foundation of the Sierra Club. Please help us understand which issues are most important to you and how you might like to get involved.

I am interested in getting involved in the following issues:

- Forests
- Energy
 - Coal
 - Nuclear
- Water
- Environmental Justice
- Political
- Agricultural
- General Conservation

I am interested in the following volunteer opportunities:

- Community outreach
- Fundraising
- Media
- Lobbying
- Office work
- Layout/Design

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Go to the Ohio Chapter website <http://ohio.sierraclub.org> to fill out an online form

OR

Email to Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator at:
brandi.whetstone@sierraclub.org

OR

Clip this ad and mail to: **Sierra Club Ohio Chapter**
Attn: Volunteers Needed
131 N. High St., Suite 605
Columbus, OH 43215