



THE OHIO SIERRAN

A Publication of the Ohio Chapter of the Sierra Club

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Explore, Enjoy, and Protect the Planet

September/October 2009

State Budget Includes Major Victories and Disappointments

By Brandi Whetstone and Jen Miller, Ohio Chapter Conservation Program Coordinators

Though Ohio's economic circumstances look very grim, we did have a lot of success defending Ohio's environment through the state budget bill. Over the past several months, the Sierra Club collaborated with several statewide organizations to submit coalition letters and conduct more than thirty legislative visits. Along with the help of our members and supporters, we also generated numerous responses from our online action alerts and anti-drilling postcards.

Budget Successes to Celebrate:

- Rejecting another attempt to open public lands to oil and gas drilling
- Securing a sustainable funding source for the Scenic Rivers Program
- Increasing landfill fees that prevented more severe cuts to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) and

the Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

- Defending Ohio's renewable energy standard by rejecting new definitions of renewable energy that would include dirty sources like trash and tire burning
- Providing municipalities the opportunity to extend low-cost financing to homeowners for rooftop solar panels through a revolving loan fund
- Paving the way to stronger and more efficient building codes with the addition of two energy experts to the Ohio Board of Building Standards
- Rejecting a misguided "regulatory reform" policy that would have excluded businesses from following environmental laws
 - Establishing more secure funding for food safety inspections

- Severely cutting public transportation and rail funding, which further burdens local public transit agencies and impedes rail freight development
- Weakening the School Health and Safety Network law, which protects school children from unsafe building conditions and exposure to environmental hazards

Though we were disappointed with a provision to prohibit state and local inspections for certain types of radioactive shipments, we are glad to say that Governor Strickland vetoed the provision.

The Governor, however, denied our veto request of an amendment creating an arbitrary deadline for the appeal process by the Environmental Review Appeals Commission (ERAC). ERAC hears appeals of decisions and permits issued by state agencies like Ohio EPA and ODNR. The 12-month review deadline is unworkable, because the appeals backlog is due to inadequate resources and staffing. Though intended to alleviate this backlog, the deadline will actually impede appeals by citizen groups.

We have much to celebrate in our work to defend Ohio's environment - after all we put the brakes on new drilling in public lands and defended Ohio's renewable energy standard. We must now continue to advocate for sustainable funding options that will support critical environmental programs. Many thanks to our members, supporters, and coalition partners for their work in greening the state budget! We look forward to our continued efforts together. ♦

Budget Disappointments:

- Eliminating funding for the Division of Natural Areas and Preserves and the Division of Geological Survey in 2011
- Significantly cutting soil and water conservation funding to all of Ohio's 88 counties
- Burdening taxpayers with the costs of regulatory oversight for coal mining while saving Big Coal from a minimal fee increase

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SIERRA CLUB, OHIO CHAPTER

131 N. High St., Suite 605
Columbus, OH 43215
(614) 461-0734 phone • (614) 461-0710 fax
<http://ohio.sierraclub.org>

Ohio Staff

Teresa McHugh	Midwest Regional Representative
MacKenzie Bailey	Conservation Program Coordinator
Nachy Kanfer	National Coal Campaign Organizer
Jennifer Miller	Conservation Program Coordinator
Brandi Whetstone	Conservation Program Coordinator

Executive Committee

Officers

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

Chair	Tony Szilagye
Agriculture	Laurel Hopwood/Teri Reinhart
Coal	Jean Godby
Energy	David Gaines
Environmental Enforcement	Marilyn Wall
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

Sept. 20, Nov. 15, 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!*

OHIO CHAPTER GROUPS



MacKenzie B ailey	614-461-0734	mackenzie.bailey@sierraclub.org
Melanie Braithwaite	614-326-4670	melbraithwaite@aol.com
Pam Brim	740-924-3360	pbrimohio@yahoo.com
Eric Britton		ebritton@slk-law.com
John Broida	330-212-5470	johnbroida@hotmail.com
Dana Carlson	740-664-2022	carlsondana@hotmail.com
Earl Clausson	330-678-6026	earlclausson@yahoo.com
Rich Clark	216-397-3341	rclark@jcu.edu
Chris Curran		currancp@ucmail.uc.edu
Ned Ford	513-533-9244	ned.ford@fuse.net
David Gaines	513-522-6696	dgaines@cinci.rr.com
Jean Godby	614-291-2339	cjgodby@yahoo.com
Jane Halbedel	440-356-9285	tthalbs@msn.com
Laurel Hopwood		lhopwood@roadrunner.com
Nachy Kanfer	614-461-0734	nachy.kanfer@sierraclub.org
Bob Kyle	614-855-1600	rkyle@wideopenwest.com
Mary Beth Lohse	740-742-2998	mb@sugarberryhill.com
Lorraine McCosker	740-589-4070	friendlygardener@yahoo.com
Teresa McHugh	614-461-0734	teresa.mchugh@sierraclub.org
Pat Marida	614-890-7865	marida@wideopenwest.com
Ryan Mason		ryananthonymason@gmail.com
Eileen Matias	330-865-9924	ematias@neo.rr.com
Pat McKenna	248-505-3550	mckenna-p@sbcglobal.net
Jennifer Miller	614-461-0734	jennifer.miller@sierraclub.org
Enid Nagel	513-886-0333	enidsierra@yahoo.com
George Peya	270 Willard St.	Youngstown 44505
Linda Reeder	614-895-6725	lreeder@columbus.rr.com
Teri Reinhart	419-288-3494	ReinhartTJ@aol.com
Larry Schartman	513-476-1850	larry.schartman@ohio.sierraclub.org
David Scott		david.scott@sierraclub.org
Marti Sinclair	513-674-1983	mjsinclair@fuse.net
Tony Szilagye	419-661-0397	3aws@accessoledo.com
Marilyn Wall	513-761-6140	marilyn.wall@env-comm.org
Brandi Whetstone	614-461-0734	brandi.whetstone@sierraclub.org

OHIO SIERRAN deadline Sept. 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.*

Cincinnati passes Environmental Justice Ordinance

By Marilyn Wall, Sierra Club Board of Directors

Four years ago, the City of Cincinnati's Environmental Justice Working Group, which included city staff and a broad array of community members, were tasked with crafting a municipal Environmental Justice Ordinance. We've reached a major milestone, with Cincinnati City Council's June 24, 2009 passage of the nation's first Environmental Justice Ordinance (EJO).

According to the US EPA's most recent Toxic Release Inventory (2007), Ohio ranks first in the nation for emissions of toxic air pollutants. The EJO notes Cincinnati's air pollution and its high air toxics levels which are causing excess cancer risk, especially in some of Cincinnati's most industrialized neighborhoods, and aims to limit health bur-

dens to neighborhoods going forward. In fact, US EPA's 2007 National-Scale Air Toxics Assessment (2002 data) identified a Cincinnati hot spot with greater than 100 in a million excess cancer risk from industrial and vehicular air pollution; the national average is 36 in a million.

The Ordinance uses existing permitting processes for proposed projects to set in motion a formal evaluation of whether or not the proposed project worsens excess cancer risk, excess risk of acute health effects or excess risk in the event of an accident. The process provides for public participation and for appeals. The City will determine whether or not the proposed project will have a "material, cumulative adverse impact" on the health or the environment of the community where the project is located. A risk of greater than one in 1 million for excess cancer from a lifetime

of exposure will not be allowed. While the ordinance does not address existing threats and only applies to increased pollution at larger facilities, it is a step toward protecting communities. Despite this limitation on the scope of the ordinance, the Chamber of Commerce held up passage for years and the final vote was 5-4. Already efforts are underway to prevent its implementation, including cutting the budget to enforce the ordinance and delaying its implementation for more "study."

Councilmember Crowley led this effort with the support of Qualls, Thomas, Cole and Harris.

Our continued efforts are much needed to clean up our air! The Miami Group salutes Marti Sinclair and Marie Kocoshis for their efforts to bring this about. ♦



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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 Fishinger Rd., Suite 200
Columbus, OH 43221

614-294-6722
tomnagel@iwaynet.net



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sierra Club Thanks ECHO Tape!

As you can see in the picture below, ECHO is a good friend of and donor to the Ohio Chapter. ECHO is a company dedicated to offering consistently high quality, reliable tape media. This Ohio-based company recycles and certifies used magnetic media tape, providing an alternative to disposing of used tapes and buying new. If your company backs up its media, contact ECHO for more information. You can reduce waste, save your company money, and support the Sierra Club all at once. www.echo-tape.com



Ohio Chapter Treasurer Linda Reeder and Conservation Program Coordinators Brandi Whetstone and Jen Miller receive a donation from ECHO's Scott Taylor and Dominic Caminiti.

Solving Global Warming in Ohio

By Ned Ford, Chapter Energy Committee

Ohio has embarked on the path to a sustainable energy future. Maybe we have only lifted our foot for the first step, but the direction is the right one and the path is inviting – to most of us.

Ohio's population is 11.5 million, and we spend just about a thousand dollars per person on electricity each year. In 2008, four separate hard-won agreements caused about \$30 million in efficiency program spending each year. But in May of last year, Senate Bill 221 was passed, and then about a year later the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed.

generate a similar percentage from renewables, and leaves the door wide open for expanded use of efficiency and renewables.

Based on VERY preliminary evidence, Ohio's electric utilities are planning to spend between one and two hundred million dollars this year to conduct efficiency. They all got a late start, and the money is much more than needed for a single year, but is appropriate in principle for a start up intended to get the annual savings up to the level required by the law quickly.

Renewable energy is also moving ahead, although the picture is more complex because some of the utilities are purchasing

rights to power from renewable generators outside of Ohio to meet part of the requirement, and the in-state generation is all still to be built. Nationally, it seems that renewables have been staggered by the recession. It is quite possible that Ohio will be one of the national leaders for renewable development for the next year or so.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act puts an enormous amount of money into play for efficiency and renewables. It also has subsidies for clean coal and nuclear power, but those subsidies are encountering many roadblocks. The allocation to the states provides Ohio with about \$200 million, largely in low income weatherization programs, but also including efficiency and renewables. Weatherization is a form of efficiency, but it is held to a lower cost/benefit standard than the utility programs developed under SB 221. That doesn't necessarily mean it is worse, because the weatherization measures are very durable, and may save as much money over the long run as the efficiency programs.

Spending all this money is likely to result in elimination of about one percent of Ohio's electric sector CO₂ emissions. More important, in a strategy intended to solve global warming, it merges with the recession to eliminate the growth of electricity consumption. Without growth in electric consumption, there will be few if any new coal or nuclear plants (and those which are built will cause punitive rate increases).

Under SB 221, efficiency and renewables expand each year. By 2014, efficiency is strong enough that new growth would not occur even if Ohio were to experience the same high growth rates other states have had for the last two decades (Ohio's electricity sales are flat since 1990).

We are by no means home free. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, but since it involves saving money and creating new, sustainable jobs and making Ohio a producer state for technologies other states and nations need, it is the best sort of work. Sustainable energy is already the bright spot in the economic downturn, but it has a long way to go. Above all else, we need to spread the message that sustainable energy not only can work, but it is working right now!

For more information, contact Ned Ford or Jen Miller (see page 2). ♦

Get Solar Hot Water !

Green Energy Ohio Launches Rebate Program

Thanks to Sierra Club's successful efforts to require soot emissions reductions at Dayton Power and Light's Stuart Plant, Sierra Club was also able to use the settlement funds from that lawsuit to establish a Residential Rebate Program for Ohioans. More information on the **NEW RESIDENTIAL SOLAR THERMAL REBATE PROGRAM** can be found at www.greenenergyohio.org.

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) recognized Sierra Club's efforts at their annual meeting in Cincinnati. Enid Nagel, our Chapter Chair, accepted GEO's "Non-Profit of the Year" award on behalf of the Club.

GEO is now receiving applications for rebates on solar water heating systems purchased after April 1, 2009 on owner-occupied residential properties in Ohio for the primary purpose of supplementing domestic water heating. Qualifying applicants may apply for the rebate to cover a portion of the costs of eligible projects. Rebate funds are limited, but subject to program conditions and requirements, qualifying applications will be funded until all the funds allocated for this Notice of Funding Availability (GEO NOFA 09-01) have been exhausted.

Eligible applicants can receive a rebate to cover a portion of the system cost based on the projected energy output from the solar collectors. Rebates will be calculated at \$30 per kBtu/day based on Solar Rating and Certification Corporation (SRCC) data. The maximum rebate amount is \$2,400 per applicant. Northeast Ohio Program Manager, Athan Barkoukis says, "The GEO Solar Thermal Rebate Program combined with the 30% Federal Investment Tax Credit will make solar thermal systems more affordable for the average homeowner, and will help spur the investment in and deployment of solar technologies across the Buckeye State."

How to Participate:

Visit <http://www.greenenergyohio.org/page.cfm?pageID=2295>.

GEO is also helping train installers. Our hope is this project saves energy, money, provides worker training, and creates green jobs!

Nuclear Reactor Announced for Southern Ohio

By Lorry Swain and Lee Blackburn

On June 18, 2009, Governor Ted Strickland, Senator George Voinovich and Rep. Jean Schmidt joined company officials from Duke Energy, Areva, UniStar Nuclear Energy, USEC and the Southern Ohio Diversity Initiative (SODI) to announce the creation of a "Southern Ohio Clean Energy Park Alliance." The hastily-formed partnership announced that they are proposing to build a 1,600 MW nuclear reactor (atomic power plant) on the site of the US Department of Energy (DOE)'s former uranium enrichment plant at Piketon.

The announcement grew out of a proposal put forth by DOE's Environmental Management (EM) group to create "energy parks" on DOE nuclear clean-up sites. The stated purpose of the initiative is to downsize DOE facilities by enticing the private sector to establish energy-related businesses on portions of the sites.

EM is the DOE group responsible for environmental cleanup and for which a citizens' Site Specific Advisory Board was established last year. The mission of the Board, in cooperation with community stakeholders, is to make recommendations on the future use of the site, determine the level of cleanup, and advise on where and how to store the contaminated materials from the dismantling of the old uranium enrichment plant.

DOE chose to keep the public and the Board in the dark while negotiating the nuclear reactor proposal, and further restricted public (and the Board) access to attend the announcement by holding it on the grounds of the plant, barring all but a selected few.

The announcement of the nuclear reactor creates a number of problems for the Southern Ohio region in general. It will tie up the site for years as the "Alliance" does site studies, searches for funding, secures licensing, etc., while preventing the possibility of any sustainable energy development at the site.

The Alliance will need to grapple with the issue of how to cool the reactor. A 2002 study by Dominion Energy, which looked at Piketon as a possible location for a reactor, concluded that there was not sufficient water

supply at the site and that such a facility could cause severe depletion of local water resources, including the Scioto River.

The announcement will cost the area, which currently has unemployment in excess of 15%, untold jobs. Foremost, the creation of good-paying jobs for the environmental cleanup of the site will be reduced. Non-nuclear reuse requires a much higher standard of cleanup than the level of cleanup needed for an atomic power plant. Non-nuclear businesses are unlikely to locate in close proximity to a nuclear power plant. In addition, local organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau, which play a role in luring jobs to the area, will now be distracted from job creation by banking on the nuclear reactor jobs.

The cost of constructing a nuclear reactor will be a huge determining factor in whether the facility is ever built. Projected costs for building nuclear reactors have escalated phenomenally in recent years. While Duke Energy has thrown out a figure of \$10 billion, PPL Corporation, an electric utility in Pennsylvania, has estimated all-in costs of \$15 billion for the identical reactor they've proposed building at the Bell Bend site on the Susquehanna River. In addition, Duke has admitted it will be years before they even break ground, allowing time for further cost increases.

Serious safety concerns have been raised in Finland and Britain about the European Pressurized Reactor, the type of power plant proposed at Piketon.

To cover such enormous costs, the Alliance will be looking to taxpayers to give them the land, pay for site studies, and provide massive subsidies and low interest loans. After all, this is an industry that after fifty years still cannot attract private funding. Duke will also look to ratepayers for big rate increases to help cover costs during construction and even larger rate increases once the reactor is completed. As is the case with northern Ohio, where electric rates are the highest in the state due to the costs of the Perry and Davis-Besse nuclear reactors, anyone buying electricity from the reactor will pay a considerable premium. After the public pays for the venture, it will be owned privately, and the profits will go to private concerns!

Over the years, politicians, DOE, USEC and SODI have proposed a number of nuclear and/or coal projects with the promise of bringing thousands of jobs to the area. None has ever come to fruition. This announce-

ment not only dampens hope for current job creation, but may likely go the way of these other proposals and never produce a single job. Meanwhile, the hope that many people in the area had of breaking with the past and producing power in a truly sustainable manner has faded with the announcement.

The nuclear industry has spent millions claiming that atomic energy is a solution to global warming. That claim was repeated many times by the politicians and industry CEOs who took to the podium at the Piketon announcement. It has been parroted for weeks by the media that received invitations to the hyped-up show. But that claim is without basis. Nuclear energy is neither efficient nor effective in cutting CO₂ emissions. In fact, the nuclear fuel chain emits far more CO₂ than any of the genuinely green, renewable energy options. Uranium mining, milling, conversion, enrichment, and fuel fabrication, all part of the nuclear fuel cycle, are powered with fossil fuels which add up to an enormous carbon footprint. Recent studies show that the release of carbon dioxide as a result of making electricity from uranium is equivalent to burning natural gas to make electric power.¹ And those studies don't consider the carbon costs of isolating the lethal radioactive waste or decommissioning the contaminated facilities.

Less than ten years ago, another announcement was made at Piketon. The DOE admitted that over half a million workers in its nuclear complex had been put in harm's way during the Cold War through exposure to radioactivity. Congress responded with a compensation program, yet to date, thousands of sick and dying workers have not been compensated, including many from Piketon. For various community "stakeholders" the June 18 announcement felt like a return to the bad old days of the Cold War, when public health was put at risk, when environmental protections were thrown aside, and when swaggering men (and women) march into town and tell us how lucky we are to be getting another nuclear facility. ♦

Lee Blackburn and Lorry Swain are members of the Nuclear Team of the Ohio Sierra Club, and both serve on the Site Specific Advisory Board at the Piketon site.

¹ Felix Christian Matthes, Nuclear Energy and Climate Change, 2005. Issue Paper 6, Heinrich Boll Foundation & World Information Service on Energy at www.nirs.org/ch20/publications/nrandclimate.htm.

Update from the Forest and Public Lands Committee *Shawnee State Forest: the Good and the Terrible*

By Loraine McCosker, Chair, Chapter Forest and Public Lands Committee

The Chapter's Forest and Public Lands Committee has collaborated with the Buckeye Forest Council, Ohio Environmental Council, Save Our Shawnee Forest and Voices for the Forest to hire GreenFire Consulting Group LLC, to implement an economic and environmental services study of Shawnee State Forest management. The main issue that GreenFire was asked to address is whether there is an economic rationale for changing the focus of forest management from forest harvests and prescribed burning to low impact recreation and forest management that supports environmental services. We envision using this document in communication with State Forest officials, other state officials, local communities, and the general public in our support of and opposition to various forest management practices. We believe there is a more progressive approach to forest management on public lands, in light of climate change and the important role that forests have to offer in terms of environmental services, such as the sequestration of atmospheric carbon, protection of watersheds, conservation of biodiversity and gene pools, regulation of the water cycle and climate, soil formation, nutrient recycling, and plant pollination, as well as providing scenic and aesthetically pleasing surroundings. While it is difficult to quantify their value in economic terms, it is self-evident that these services are valuable and contribute to the wealth of society and, therefore, should be taken into account when decisions regarding forest management practices are being made. A method of quantifying the value of environmental services is needed so that there is an incentive to protect forests against destructive harvesting of their products.

This study was an outgrowth of membership opposition to the 89 acre logging of an area near the Day Hike Trail, rated as one of the best trails in Ohio. Ohio Sierra Club and Buckeye Forest Council alerted its membership, asking for emails to Governor Strickland and Sean Logan, Chief of Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) in August 2008. Membership response approximated 2000 emails, requesting the site be spared from logging. ODNR's Division of Forestry did not support our opposition,

stated in a letter from Director Logan. Following this decision, many hours of discussion with other environmental organizations provided a foundation for the concept of a strategic approach to state forest management oversight. Shawnee is viewed as being on the chopping block despite strong grassroots support locally and volunteers who frequently walk the forest and advocate on its behalf.

Prescribed Burn: Since the commissioning of the Greenfire project, Shawnee State Forest has undergone a prescribed burn. A prescribed burn is a forest fire planned and executed by forestry personnel. The policy reasoning is to remove potential ground fuel for wildfires and to reduce densities of maples and other species to allow growth of oak ecosystems. ODNR receives federal funding to do so. These burns require air permits through the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). A request for a public hearing regarding five burn permits for the Shawnee State Forest had been denied by OEPA director Chris Korleski. These burns were permitted in Scioto and Lawrence counties, both counties are in non-attainment for PM 2.5. There are academic studies supporting increases in particulate matter with prescribed burning.

April 24th, the day that the Division of Forestry chose to carry out their prescribed burn in the Shawnee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), issued a special weather statement that there was increased wildfire danger due to high winds, low humidity and dry debris, as well as higher temperatures in the 80s. Burning by citizens was prohibited by ODNR, but the prescribed burn was implemented. It is possible that the burns escaped the burn unit and jumped the fire lines due to the weather, or it may have been an arson fire, but approximately 2800 acres were burned in various capacities, far exceeding the targeted 250 acres. One arrested suspect was recently released. Did the suspected arsonist light fires or was it out of control prescribed burns?

A press release was issued by Buckeye Forest Council and Ohio Sierra Club calling on the governor to issue a ban on prescribed fire in forests. "According to Ohio's open

burning rules, the Division of Forestry must demonstrate that open burning in the forest is necessary to the public interest", said Brandi Whetstone, Conservation Program Coordinator with the Sierra Club

Ohio Chapter. "Regardless of Division of Forestry's justification for burning, the reality is that fires burn out of control, releasing harmful air emissions and compromising the health and safety of local residents."

On May 20th volunteers traveled to the Shawnee to view the forest following the prescribed and wildfire burns. We did so from the roads as trails have been closed in these areas. A reduction in debris, a desired outcome of the prescribed burn, was not evident to the volunteers observing the burn sites. Once charred, lichens and other organisms that act to break down forest materials are limited in their ability to do so. Measures such as the removal of large dead trees prior to the burn had not been done. Such trees may smolder and act as an ignition source in the presence of high winds. Large areas had been treated with prescribed fire with limited personnel on the ground. Hillside that had experienced wildfire were charred.

Shawnee has beautiful areas of canopy and forested hillsides. But viewing the forest more closely one is aware of a forest that is in distress. Clearcut after clearcut is visible, scarring the land and destroying the forest canopy and environmental services provided.

There is much to write about regarding the Division of Forestry management practices, and these will be discussed in the following *Ohio Sierran*. In the meantime, if you are interested in working with the Forest Committee we need your energy. We promise exciting work in future months! Contact Loraine McCosker (see page 2). ♦

Bob Kyle, co-chair of the Forest Committee suffered a stroke while at OEC lobby day on March 31st. Bob has spent countless hours in support of Ohio forests. Please take this time to send him a card and wish him well.:1161 Riva Ridge Blvd, Gahanna, OH 43230-3810.

pitch a tent with
someone you love



Pawpaws in Ohio: *How a little-known fruit launched a festival and became a symbol of the state*

By Michelle Gorman

Ever heard of a pawpaw? If you grew up in the countryside, near the woods, or your parents or grandparents did, you just may know that it's North America's largest edible native tree fruit, growing wild in many places throughout the eastern United States, including Appalachian Ohio. Sometimes called the 'poor man's banana' or the 'American custard apple', pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) are tropical-like fruits with a flavor often described as a blend of mango, banana and pineapple. This understory tree has long leaves, and come late summer, produces a fleshy, creamy fruit filled with large seeds.

Historically pawpaws provided sustenance to native cultures, people of the early frontier and wild animals. Today the pawpaw fruit has regained popularity as a specialty, gourmet edible, high in protein, fat, magnesium, iron, copper and manganese. They are a good source of potassium and several essential amino acids, and they contain significant amounts of riboflavin, niacin, calcium, phosphorus and zinc.

Despite its rich history and notable culinary attributes, the pawpaw remains somewhat elusive to the mainstream, though that's gradually changing.

So why isn't the nutritionally superior pawpaw more widely recognized? For starters, this delicate fruit must be picked and eaten when fully ripe. It bruises easily, making it a challenge to keep (and to get to market), and fresh fruit lasts only a week in the refrigerator. And it's generally only available from late August through mid-October.

Nevertheless, passionate pawpaw enthusiasts exist all over the country. The PawPaw Foundation, Kentucky State University's Pawpaw Program and the Ohio Pawpaw Growers Association all work to advance the pawpaw, through research, seed propagation or general education. Researchers also are establishing pawpaw orchards to fill growing demand for fresh fruit and biomass (leaves and bark). The tree also has gained popularity as a landscape plant, and was named landscape tree of the year by *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine in 2000; today many major nurseries offer trees for sale to the general public. Medical researchers have developed medical uses for the tree's leaves, bark and twig tissue, including as a cell regulator for fighting cancer and a topical lotion to combat head lice.

Back in 1999, after several successful years of wild-harvesting and shipping fresh pawpaws across the United States, southeastern Ohio entrepreneur Chris Chmiel sought to introduce the pawpaw to his local community. The Albany Pawpaw Festival was born, and judges from *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine and *The Washington Post* weighed in on the first-ever pawpaw cook-off, best pawpaw competition and pawpaw-eating contest. Now, eleven years later, the event, renamed the Ohio Pawpaw Festival, has blossomed into a two-day affair with a strong focus on all things pawpaw. The contests and competitions are augmented by cooking

demonstrations, educational workshops and a community marketplace.

Five years ago, Chmiel began the process of having the pawpaw honored as Ohio's official fruit. He worked with Ohio State Senator Jimmy Stewart (then a state representative) on introducing legislation, only to have the proposal not pass on several attempts. But this past January, Governor Ted Strickland signed Senate Bill 243, designating the pawpaw as Ohio's official *native* fruit. So even though the tomato won out as Ohio's *official* fruit, expect this year's Ohio Pawpaw Festival to be especially celebratory!

Michelle Gorman and her husband Chris Chmiel own Integration Acres, Ltd., a specialty food business specializing in pawpaws, black walnuts, spicebush, ramps and other edible non-timber forest products. They also operate a farmstead goat cheese dairy near Albany, Ohio. They can be reached at pawpaw@frognet.net or by visiting www.integrationacres.com.

The 11th Annual Ohio Pawpaw Festival will be held September 19 & 20, 2009, at Lake Snowden near Albany, Ohio. Admission is \$5.00 per day or \$8.00 for a weekend pass; children under 12 are free. Lake Snowden also collects a parking fee of \$2.00 per day or \$3.00 for the weekend. For more information on the festival, please visit www.ohiopawpawfest.com or call 740-698-6060. ♦

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>

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!**

Major Milestone Reached: 100 Coal Plants Prevented Nationwide

By Nachy Kanfer, Zach Iwler, and Emily Sampsel, Sierra Club staff

On July 9th, 2009, the Intermountain Power coal plant in Utah became the 100th coal plant nationwide to be prevented or closed since the 'coal rush' began in 2001. In place of these plants, a smart mix of clean energy solutions like energy efficiency, wind, solar and geothermal has stepped up to meet America's energy needs. Last year, forty-two percent of all new power-producing capacity came from wind, and for the first time the wind industry created more jobs than mining coal. And also in July, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa announced the country's second-largest city would end coal use entirely by 2020.

On the same day the Intermountain Power plant was abandoned, Basin Electric Power in South Dakota pulled its plans to build a coal plant too, further reinforcing the movement towards clean, renewable energy sources and away from dirty coal. Yet despite these successes in Utah and South Dakota, here in Ohio our clean energy future remains threatened: the AMP-Ohio electric coopera-

and other companies have coal plans in the pipelines, as well.

"Basin Electric is the latest in a growing list of electric cooperatives throughout the Midwest that are moving beyond coal and searching out better energy options," said Nachy Kanfer, with Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign in Ohio. "It's time for AMP-Ohio to follow suit and stop making excuses about how clean energy doesn't exist yet. The truth is, everybody else is already doing it."

Proposed for Meigs County, the AMP plant would emit large amounts of soot, smog and mercury into a region already ranking first in the state for lung and bronchus cancer. Meigs County also has the lowest life expectancy for men in Ohio. In addition to harming health, the AMP-Ohio plant would crowd out the creation of clean energy jobs in Ohio that could secure the state's energy future. The facility has not been able to begin construction and has suffered drastic cost increases.

tive has not yet abandoned its plans to build a coal plant in south-east Ohio –

"The widespread opposition to the dirty coal plant here in Ohio is just one part of a growing nationwide movement," said Kanfer. "It's clear that the American people are ready for a switch to the clean energy technologies that can help repower our economy."

That movement has kept well over 400 million tons of harmful pollution out of the air annually, making significant progress in the fight against global warming. Stopping 100 new coal plants has also kept thousands of tons of asthma-causing soot and smog pollution, and neurological toxins like mercury, out of our air and water.

Sierra Club is working to replace the existing dirty, unreliable coal plants that are large contributors to soot, smog, mercury, and global warming pollution with cleaner energy options that create more jobs.

"Stopping one hundred coal plants is a huge milestone in our fight to end global warming, but the coal industry is still pushing forward with plans for dozens of new plants and pouring money into slick advertising campaigns and lobbying efforts," said Bruce Nilles, Director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign. "As we celebrate this amazing milestone, we must redouble our efforts to stop new plants and replace the existing coal plants with clean energy." ♦

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