

## 2007 Conference on the Environment To Be Held in Schenectady

The Schenectady County Environmental Advisory Council (SCEAC) is proud to host the 2007 Conference on the Environment in the New Proctor's Conference Center in Schenectady, New York Friday, October 19 through Sunday October 21, 2007. The Proctor's Theater is an historic theatre in the heart of downtown Schenectady. Built in 1926 and listed on the National Register of Historical Places, the theater will be completely restored in time to host our Conference.



ment bustling with the energy generated by many recently completed projects and an influx of new businesses. Participants will be staying at the New Hampton Inn in Downtown Schenectady, a block away from the Conference Center.

Other attractions in Schenectady and in the surrounding area include:

- The American Indian Cultural Center on the Mohawk River in Rotterdam Junction

The Conference, entitled *Plugging into Tomorrow: Energy Options and Opportunities*, promises to be an exciting conference on cutting edge energy issues, while at the same time showing off a reemerging downtown.

The conference plenary speaker, Kim Lundgren, is the Regional Director of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), Local Governments for Sustainability program. ICLEI is the leading international organization working with local governments around the globe to build a sustainable world.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is also playing a major role in the Conference. Paul Tonko, the new Executive Director of NYSERDA will be the Saturday dinner speaker.

NYSACC and NYSAEMC representatives will present projects at a session on Friday afternoon. Space will also be available to set up displays. Maryde King is coordinating the presentations and displays. If you would like to present or have a display, contact her at [maryde@capital.net](mailto:maryde@capital.net) or (518) 374-7287.

Attendees will enjoy a small city downtown environ-

- The Stockade Historic District in Schenectady
- Recreational facilities featuring boating, fishing, golf, arts centers, parks, gardens and nature preserves.

Registration materials and the preliminary program will be sent out to members in mid-August. For further information about the conference please contact Jeff Edwards at [jeff.edwards@schenectadycounty.com](mailto:jeff.edwards@schenectadycounty.com) or (518) 386-2225.

# Hurry!

**Submit your entries for the 2007  
NYSACC Project Award by Sept. 30**

**Send submissions to:**

**Arlene Kaufman**

**3 Andover Drive**

**Port Jefferson Station, NY 11776**

**or e-mail to [Teach2345@aol.com](mailto:Teach2345@aol.com)**

## Book Reviews

### *The Lazy Environmentalist - Your Guide to Easy, Stylish Green Living* by Josh Dorfman



Reading this book is like sitting down with an old friend who is an eco-friendly shop-a-holic. The book is a resource directory for those looking for eco-conscious products including organic clothing, products for your green home, and green travel options. It's basically an eco-intelligent guide to everything!

*The Lazy Environmentalist* is not a sit by the fire with your feet up, deeply engrossing novel, but it is a good book to keep on the

shelf, especially if you are trying to live a more environmentally conscious lifestyle without sacrificing some of your shopping indulgences.

Reading the book, however, as an environmental educator, I questioned some of the author's eco-choices. One of the examples in the book relates to buying organic clothing. The author mentioned that Walmart is the largest purchaser of organic clothing, making it a green choice. However, Mr. Dorfman didn't mention any of the environmental or social issues surrounding Walmart.

Overall, *The Lazy Environmentalist* is a good purchase, especially if you are new to eco-friendly products. But it's good to remember, one of the reasons our environment is the way it is today is our culture of consumerism, so share your book with a friend! *The Lazy Environmentalist* retails for \$14.95 and can be found at local bookstores.

### *Your Green Home - A Guide to Planning a Healthy, Environmentally Friendly, New Home* by Alex Wilson

*Your Green Home* is designed to guide you through the step by step process of designing and building a new "green" home. It presents all of the environmentally friendly options and helps you decide which options might be for you.

If you are building a new home, especially a green one, this book helps explain basic eco-options like radiant heating, geothermal and solar energy, certified lumber and much more. It will help you stay one step ahead of your green builder so you can ask for and understand specific options.

*Your Green Home* is written by Alex Wilson, President of Building Green, Inc., and Executive Editor of Environmental Building News, the oldest and most respected publication serving North America's Green Building In-

dustry. This book retails for 17.95 and can be found at local bookstores and also on Mr. Wilson's website at [www.buildinggreen.com](http://www.buildinggreen.com). Wilson has also written *Green Building Products*.

*Book Reviews* by Julie Noble, New NYSACC Director, Region 3 and Environmental Educator for the Forsyth Nature Center in Kingston, NY.

## Woodstock Becomes a Carbon Neutral Community

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), consisting of the world's most respected scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution.

Some state and local governments are adopting emission reduction targets and programs. Examples include the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, (RGGI), a cooperative effort by Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement with the ultimate goal of making the Mid-Hudson region a Zero-Carbon Zone.

On March 13 2007, the Town of Woodstock passed a resolution declaring it a Carbon Neutral Community, and committing to a Zero-Carbon Initiative by implementing policies resulting in no net emission of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by the end of 2017. To this end the Town Board created two Sustainability Task Forces to work in conjunction with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, (ICLEI) Local Governments for Sustainability, our local County Agencies, cities and towns in our region and other appropriate organizations such as New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and its Mid Hudson Energy Smart Communities.

The first task force is charged with defining carbon neutral standards, identifying federal, state and local initiatives in sustainability planning, investigating land uses that create more or less carbon footprints and report on vehicles and tools with internal combustion engines that make the most efficient use of fuels. Task Force II is charged with identifying energy consuming devices and operations of the Town and make recommendations for their improvement. The Task Forces were given 120 days to complete their work and generate a report to be reviewed by the Woodstock Environmental Commission.

Ann Brandt, Woodstock Environmental Commission  
NYSACC Board Member

For further information on this topic, e-mail Ann Brandt at [ABrandt@woodstockny.org](mailto:ABrandt@woodstockny.org)

## Meet NYSACC's Directors

**Dr. Maung S. Htoo** is chairman of the Town of LaGrange CAC. He has successfully recruited qualified new members, improved the working relationship with the town board, initiated several new projects and made significant contributions to the preservation of the natural environment. For these achievements, the CAC received the Greenway Award from Dutchess County in 2005 and NYSACC awards in 2005 and 2006. Maung received a certificate of appreciation from the town board for his leadership of the CAC in December, 2005.

Maung is an adjunct professor in Chemistry at Marist College and an adjunct professor in Physical Science at Dutchess Community College. He serves as President of Vassar Brothers Institute, Director of Dutchess County Regional Science Fair, Secretary/Treasurer of the Vassar College chapter of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society and Past President of the Arlington Rotary Club. He has four daughters and three grandchildren. He resides with his wife, Anne, in the town of LaGrange. His hobbies are traveling, biking and physical fitness.

**Julie Noble** was recently appointed as a Region 3 Director of NYSACC. Julie has a long history of working with NYSACC as she has attended numerous conferences and board meetings with her husband, and fellow NYSACC Board Member, Steve Noble.

Julie attended Binghamton University where she majored in Environmental Studies. Julie has always loved the outdoors beginning as a girl scout, then an intern for the Hudson River Sloop, Clearwater and later working at Beaver Lake Nature Center, near Syracuse. After college, Julie teamed up with her husband to create an environmental education program for the City of Kingston while also serving on the Ulster County Environmental Management Council and working to create a CAC in the City of Kingston. Julie is looking forward to working with NYSACC to help continue the organizations long standing role in supporting conservation advisory councils across the state.

**Steve Noble** came to NYSACC when he was 16 and a student in Kingston H.S. in Kingston, NY. Steve was a student member of the Ulster County EMC and joined NYSACC at the conference that year! Since then, Steve has grown up, attending the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and receiving a degree in Environmental Studies.

Steve and Julie went on to create an Environmental Education program for the City of Kingston for whom they both work. They have been working hard to create a lasting program using their Kingston parks as outdoor classrooms for school children and the public. Steve lives in Kingston and is currently working to convince the City of Kingston to create their own CAC while he still serves on the Ulster County EMC. If you are ever in the Kingston area, make sure to visit the Nobles at the Forsyth Nature Center. Their website is [www.forsythnaturecenter.org](http://www.forsythnaturecenter.org).

## Websites of Note

In keeping with our conference theme, the following websites are all related to energy issues.



- [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)  
Website of the US Department of Energy, provides information on new technologies, energy efficiency, energy savings tips and current grants.
- [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)  
Energy Star is a joint program of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Energy, promotes the use of energy efficient products and practices.
- [www.enviroliteracy.org](http://www.enviroliteracy.org)  
Website of the Environmental Literacy Council, contains information on energy sources and a list of recommended resources.
- [www.unep.org/themes/energy/](http://www.unep.org/themes/energy/)  
Website of the United Nations Environment Program whose mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.
- [www.nyserda.org](http://www.nyserda.org)  
Website of the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority. NYSERDA administers the NY Energy Smart Program which provides energy efficiency services.
- [www.aceny.org](http://www.aceny.org)  
Website of the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, Inc., which promotes the use of clean, renewable electricity technologies and energy efficiency in NYS.

## NYSACC News

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For additional copies of NYSACC News and address changes, contact the Newsletter office.



## President's Message

### Age and the Environmental Movement

You can look at this picture of me and know that I am not young in years. You can look inside this issue of NYSACC News and know that some of our members and Directors are, and we have plenty of members of all ages in between. Environmental problems have been around as long as the oldest of us and are newer than the youngest. Some of the proposed solutions are old and are being recycled. Many are based on new research and new technology. Let's say we belong to a movement of ageless concerns and ageless people.



and the stack grows higher and higher. It reminds me of the excitement generated by the first Earth Day. Have you ever seen so many lists of recycling and green living tips?

So, come to the 2007 Conference on the Environment in Schenectady in October. We can share what we already know and learn some new cutting edge information. For the youngest, NYSACC offers student scholarships. For everyone, of all ages, the Conference offers pertinent, timely and applicable information. But most of all, our Conference offers collegiality, networking and support for environmentalists of all ages.

Joy Squires

On 7/07/07, a green message was sent to two billion people around the earth. Think about the Live Earth concert held around the world and on every continent. Think about those continual environmental messages and warnings. Messages that were factual and specific interspersed, depending on which channel you watched, with green product and green living information of all types. Music of all kinds, some you loved, some you didn't, but it didn't matter.

If you look at the depth and breadth of the global warming issue and the huge collection of environmental problems, the situation seems insurmountable. But break everything into small parts. The best message that comes through to me out of the tremendous assortment of facts and "to dos," was that we don't have to do everything; we just have to do something. Wherever we are on the environmental spectrum, we can do one more thing, make one more lifestyle change. Look at what you are doing personally and what your Conservation Commission is doing and see what one more action you can take . . . and bring along a friend.

What is truly exciting is that virtually every publication of every sort is focusing on solutions to environmental issues. I have been collecting printed material

### NYSDEC Update

In June, NYSAEMC sponsored their annual NYSDEC Update. DEC has graciously made the presented information available to us. Go to our website, [www.nysaccny.com](http://www.nysaccny.com) and click on Links and Resources.

Information includes a summary of 2007 June DEC Update Programs with slideshows on these topics:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Programs
- Outdoor Wood Boilers and Open Burning
- SEQR
- NY CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Program Proposal (RGGI)
- Invasive Species
- State Wildlife Grants
- NYS Dam Safety

For questions on particular programs, contact Karl Berger, NYSDEC Citizen Participation Specialist (518-402-8020) or Maria Katchmar.

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