



MOSHANNON GROUP NEWS

SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP

December 2012

Issue 5



Do The Math

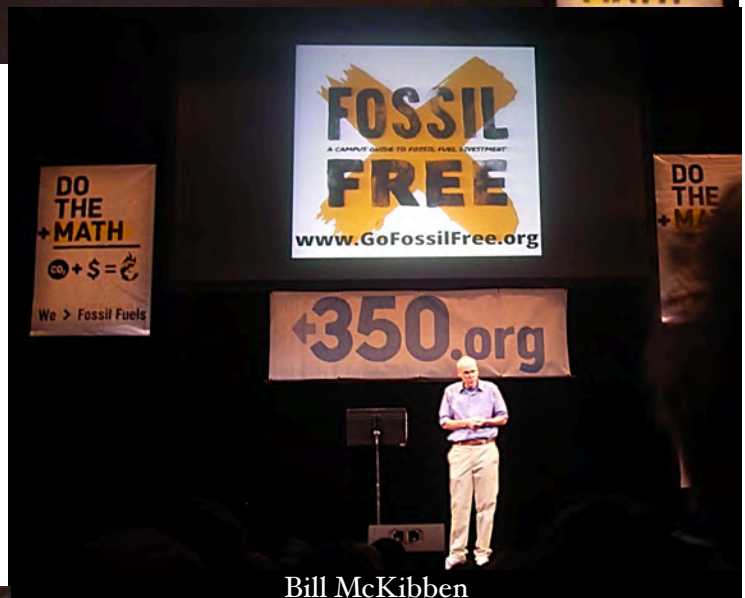
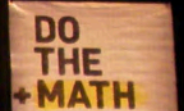
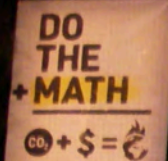
By Gary Thornbloom

Bill McKibben has been touring the country with a simple message. On November 18th he spoke to a sold out audience of 1800 in Washington DC. His message asked us to focus on three numbers:

It's simple math: we can burn 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide and stay below 2°C of warming — anything more than that risks catastrophe for life on earth. The only problem? Fossil fuel corporations now have 2,795 gigatons in their reserves, five times the safe amount. And they're planning to burn it all — unless we rise up to stop them.

That is the math. And McKibben, a soft spoken writer who would prefer to be back home in Vermont

We're going after the fossil fuel industry.



Bill McKibben

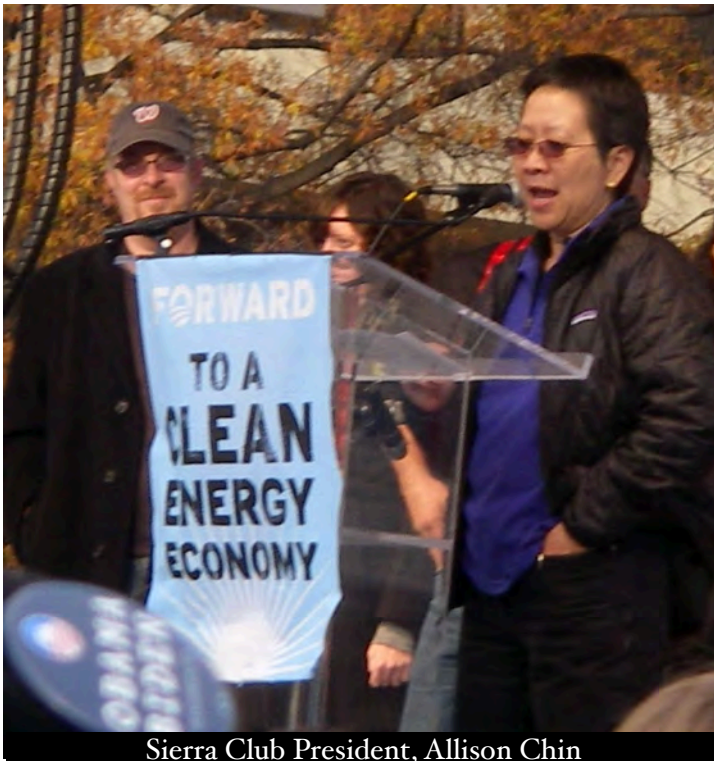
writing, has declared war: *We're going after the fossil fuel industry.*

After his talk McKibben then asked us to join him in taking to the streets, and taking the message to the White House. Allison Chin, Sierra Club President, spoke to the crowd outside and announced:

We're here today to support the President. To give him the courage to stand up to the oil, coal and gas industries. Mr. President: Reject the Keystone XL pipeline and keep dangerous Canadian tar sands out of America.

It's the climate, stupid.

Today, with 350.org, the Sierra Club is announcing the beginning of a major climate agenda, leading up to a rally in February — a President's Day march on Washington for Climate Solutions.



Sierra Club President, Allison Chin

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MOSHANNON MUSINGS

GARY THORNBLOOM

Our country is on the verge of becoming energy self-sufficient. The United States is poised to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's major oil producer. Governor Corbett would like to turn Pennsylvania into the Saudi Arabia of natural gas. "Merry Christmas America" - Penn State Professor Terry Engelder. Exxon alone plans to spend about \$100 million a day over the next 4 years looking for even more oil and gas.

What is happening here?

Industry has moved from conventional fossil fuels to extreme fossil fuels. The fossil fuel boom/bonanza in our country is being driven by extreme efforts: mountain top removal; coal tar sands; shale gas; shale oil. Each of these has been made possible by technological marvels. Each takes an extreme amount of energy to obtain the fossil fuel source. And each exacts an extremely high price on our land, air, and water. It is also now apparent that the global climate will be the ultimate casualty of extreme energy.

Corporations are not looking any further than their bottom line. And politicians? Does any reasonable person believe the \$2 billion that the coal, natural gas, and oil industries have spent since 1999 on lobbying has not influenced decisions made by Washington politicians?

And what about the scientists? The science is clear. Burning fossil fuels has changed, and will continue to change the earth's climate. If we burn all the fossil fuel in the reserves the corporations have identified, then our climate will be changed in an extreme manner.

Storms will get worse. Warm air holds more moisture than colder air. Sea level will rise. Some small island nations will be the first to go under water. Some of the world's major cities will, if not under water, face major flooding from storm surge - New York. The world's food crops will be at risk - much of Africa remains in drought conditions, corn in Kentucky aborted kernels in this past summer's heat. Sandy...

NASA scientist James Hansen asks how likely a storm such as Sandy could occur without global warming, and concludes that it is highly unlikely. While it cannot be said that global warming caused Sandy there is no doubt that global warming made it worse.

The fossil fuel industry clearly intends not only to burn all of their known reserves, but to continue to search for even more fossil fuels. This is madness. This is pure corporate self-interest. It is not in our interest, or in the interest of the earth's climate.

Bill McKibben has stood up and identified the enemy. He makes a compelling case against the fossil fuel industry. And he has laid out a plan to fight back. He also promises that it will not be easy.

McKibben's Do The Math tour will visit 21 cities by its end on December 3. He is working to lay the foundation for a movement.

The Sierra Club helped make the Do The Math tour possible. The Sierra Club will be standing with McKibben and many other organizations in Washington DC, on President's Day in February.

Will you join us there?

Calendar

ALL ARE WELCOME!

PRESENTATIONS

You can help the Moshannon Group with Programs – we need a Program Chair. Please contact any of the Executive Committee members if you are willing to help. (See the Directory on the last page)

WINTER PARTY!

We are working on plans for a Winter Party sometime around mid February. We plan to send out details in January.

OUTINGS

December 22 - Quehanna Holiday Hike

This is a moderate 6.5 mile shuttle hike from Beaver Run to Lost Run Rd. Features include a viewing blind, a large stand of black cherry trees, a large field of arctic cotton grass, Crawford Vista, and Meeker Cave shelter. In addition, pines and hemlocks add a festive feel to this walk in the woods.

Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Hoover Farm parking lot, where the Quehanna Highway and Wykoff Road intersect. From there the shuttle deploys. For more information, or in case of questionable weather, contact Terri Davis at nugenie@aol.com or 814-355-3345.

January 12-13, Saturday & Sunday, Winter Camping.

We will do a short hike into Thickhead Wild Area and then stay overnight to practice camping skills in cold-weather and potentially snowy conditions. Additional activities, such as other short hikes or snowshoeing to explore the area, will be weather dependent. Meet at Alan Seeger Natural Area at Noon on Saturday. Please RSVP for this outing by January 9 to Helena Kotala, hdkotala@gmail.com, 814-880-0918.

February 2, Groundhog Day Snowshoe Hike at Blue Knob State Park - February 2.

Meet at noon at Chappel's Field for a 2-hour hike along forest trails. If there's not enough snow, it becomes a regular winter hike. Trip leader Dave Hunter, davmhunter@aol.com, 814-317-7971.

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Bats Suffering 95% Population Decline Denied Endangered Status in Pennsylvania

— *Game Commission bullied by Mining, Timber, Development Interests, and Politicians* —

By Dr. Stan Kotala

Three bat species whose populations have declined by more than 95% over the past 6 years have been denied endangered species status in Pennsylvania.

After proposing listing as endangered the little brown bat, the northern long-eared bat, and the tri-colored bat in September, Pennsylvania Game Commission officials announced last month that the agency will not be moving forward to draft regulatory changes to place three species of bats on the state's endangered species list.

Pennsylvania Game Commission Executive Director Carl Roe noted that the agency received many public comments in support of listing the bats as an endangered species. "Through this process, we heard from various wildlife organizations and representatives from the timber, oil, coal and gas industries, as well as legislators. At the present time, it is clear that more discussion, research and coordination need to be done on White Nose Syndrome and the other outside factors that are impacting our bat populations, as well as how we can craft solutions that protect bats without threatening the industries that employ thousands of Pennsylvanians," said Roe.

As usual, industries, developers, and politicians claimed economic Armageddon if efforts were made to protect these three bat species from extinction. And again, sound science was trumped by political bullying.

The Sierra Club Moshannon Group letter supporting the listing of these three bat species is on our website

www.sierramsh.org

The PGC's public notice requesting comments regarding the proposed listing of these three bat species is at <http://www.pabulletin.com/secure/data/vol42/42-32/1555.html>

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CALENDAR

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOW SHOEING

Join a contact list for outings to be scheduled as snow conditions permit. Contact: Gary Thornbloom: bearknob@verizon.net

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

April 13 & 14, Friday and Saturday. Location: the State Theatre in downtown State College. Details and a complete list of films will be included in an upcoming newsletter and will be on our website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All members welcome. First Tuesday of the month, 7PM at ClearWater Conservancy. Call an Excom Member to confirm the next meeting location and date.



With your help,
we can clean up our water.

Please help us work to keep our water safe from mining, and from under-regulated Marcellus Shale Gas drilling!

Keep our water safe. Join Sierra Club.

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 Zip _____ Phone (____) _____
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Join today and receive a FREE Sierra Club Weekender Bag!



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Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
Special Offer	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	
Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35
Student/Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$35

Contributions, gifts and dues to Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and \$1 for your Chapter newsletters.

Enclose a check and mail to Sierra Club, P.O. Box 421041, Palm Coast, FL 32142-1041

or visit our website www.sierraclub.org

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Do the Math

The 3,000 people gathered in Freedom Plaza then marched around the White House with a 600 foot giant inflatable pipeline and chanted “Hey Obama, we don’t want no climate drama.”

The turnout for the march was impressive given that it was organized in ten days. People of all ages marched, and the number of young people was particularly impressive. A busload of college students had come from Michigan!

As McKibben said earlier in the day: *Remember this moment, this is when we got serious!*



Seven of us traveled from State College to Washington DC on November 18th - will you join us in February?

Contact Gary Thornbloom at bearknob@verizon.net and I will keep you posted on plans for February, President’s Day in Washington DC.



Moshannon Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements and Ballot

Michelle Barbin

As a Moshannon Group ExCom member, Barbin continues involvement as the Banff Program/ad designer, group website developer, provides various technical skills (e.g., produced Ingraffea DVD), and supports group issues (e.g., educating about the risks of unconventional drilling for deep shale gas) and serves as a contact for People Protecting Communities (the organization at the forefront of the Resource Recovery Landfill opposition). As a member of the PPC steering committee, Barbin developed reluctant familiarity with DEP regulations and administrative processes primarily concerning solid waste/landfill permitting from air quality to wetlands and the NEPA process via the EIS for the railroad reactivation to enable access to the proposed Resource Recovery Landfill site. Barbin is active in Centre County land use and transportation planning as an appointed representative for the Mountaintop Region municipalities on the Centre County and its Long-Range Transportation Planning subcommittee. She served on the Centre County Greenways Steering Committee. As a resident of an area that is ground-zero for Marcellus gas drilling and suffers significant pass-through traffic, she supports a drilling moratorium and is appalled by Act 13. Barbin holds balanced, holistic views of environmental preservation, conservation, reclamation, and promotes Smart Growth/Smart Transportation principles. Her knowledge base includes nearly 20 years as a developmental editor of parks, recreation, and leisure studies textbooks, and observing the land-use planning mistakes that allowed sprawl to consume the rural countryside where she was raised.

Steve Lachman

I will really appreciate your vote to reelect me as a member of the Moshannon Group Executive Committee. For the past four years I have served the Excom both as Vice Chairman and as the Membership Chairman. Nationally, I lead service trips for the Sierra Club. My background is as an environmental attorney - I worked for 8 and 1/2 years for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and I have also represented citizens in Aaronsburg against expansion of a limestone mine that is encroaching on the town. From 2008 to 2012, I was a law professor at the Penn State Dickinson School of Law. Residents of Centre County know me as a monthly political essayist in the Centre Daily Times, where I advocate environmental and other liberal viewpoints. I coach forensics and mock trial at the State College Area High School.

I have enjoyed working with the other members of the Moshannon Group Excom. We are in the midst of figuring out how to reach out to more members of the Group so we can increase our efficacy. I support attempts to prevent fracking from polluting our waters, diminishing our agriculture, and destroying the integrity of our forests. We should give citizens more power to protect the health of their communities.

Judy Tanner

As a member of the Sierra Club for 30+ years, I ask for your support so that I may continue serving on the Moshannon Group Excom. I am presently Secretary, Political Chair, Population/Growth Chair, and Group Delegate to the PA Chapter. There are so many challenges facing us today that it is even more important that we join together at the local level to protect our environment. If we are focused and passionate, we can have a positive impact not only on issues here in Central PA, but on widespread and diverse issues nationally also. I hope that you will join with the Sierra Club in our efforts to make a difference in this critical time.

*****Ballot*****

Vote by placing a checkmark next to no more than four nominees and return this ballot concerning the governing Executive Committee of the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club. Ballots must be received by **January 7, 2013**. Mail to **Elections, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804**.

___ **Michele Barbin**

___ **Steve Lachman**

___ **Judy Tanner**

_____ **Write in**

Note: For verification purposes your mailing label should remain attached on the opposite side. You may black out your name and address on the label, but not the zip code. If joint membership two sets of checks are permitted.

www.sierramsh.org



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Moshannon Group Directory

**Executive Committee members*

Chair, Conservation, Newsletter, Alt. Chapter Delegate	*Gary Thornbloom	353-3466	bearknob@verizon.net
Vice Chair, Membership	*Steve Lachman	867-4534	stevlachman@gmail.com
Treasurer, Global Warming	Ron Johnson	359-6841	greenbowl@hotmail.com
Secretary, Political, Chapter Delegate	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@verizon.net
Website	*Michele Barbin	387-4509	mlb10@verizon.net
	*Ronn Brouman	867-0624	ronnb@comcast.net
Banff Coordinator, Alt. Chapter Delegate	*Lynne Heritage	355-8323	llheritage@comcast.net
Outings	*Helena Kotala	880-0918	hdkotala@gmail.com
Endangered Species/ Wildlife, Outings	Stan Kotala	946-8840	ccwiba@keyconn.net
Calendars	Paula Thornbloom	353-3466	pthornbloom@cdfc.org
Programs	VACANT		
Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		vogelsong100@yahoo.com
Tabling Coordinator	VACANT		

All phone numbers listed above are area code 814

Development of Natural Gas from Shales: Some Myths and Realities

Professor Ingraffea discusses 4 myths and realities as well as additional minor myths - "minor" only in the sense that they are not the four that are the primary focus of this talk.

Professor Ingraffea is one of the most articulate voices in the discussion of whether we should be drilling for deep shale natural gas.

This complete 2 hour talk is available on DVD for a donation of \$1. We will have them wherever we have a table.

So far we have distributed over 900 copies!

Only a limited number remain, so if you would like a copy now is the time to order one!

To receive a copy by mail, send a check for \$3 (or more, if you would like to help us distribute more of these DVD's) made out to "Sierra Club Moshannon Group". Mail your request to: Gary Thornbloom, 702 Hall Road, Julian, PA 16844.

www.sierramsh.org