



MOSHANNON GROUP NEWS

SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP



January 2014

Issue 1

Moshannon Group Winter Party Sunday February 23, 5:30PM

Moshannon Group members
and non-members are welcome — *bring a guest!*
Chili with organic local beef or vegan chili option!
Dinner at 6PM

\$5 - RSVP requested, see our website for details.

**Location: Friends Meeting House,
611 Prospect Avenue, State College**

An opportunity to discuss conservation, issues, and outings. There will be a short presentation at 7PM by Executive Committee member Ernest Boyd that will include images, observations, and ecological lessons from his recent visit to New Zealand. See the article below.

The Invasion of New Zealand's Isolated Ecology

by Ernest Boyd

New Zealand had been isolated from the rest of the globe for hundreds of millions of years. One of the unique results of its evolutionary past is that no mammals, other than bats, evolved on its islands. Birds instead filled ecological niches. The result is that New Zealand has many species of flightless birds. No dangerous terrestrial predators meant that there was no need for flight.

New Zealand was also isolated from human habitation until very recently. It was a mere 800 years since the first homo sapiens came to the islands of New Zealand, This is incredible considering that Australia has been homo-inhabited for 50,000 years.



Well Fern Tree — photo by Ernest Boyd

Alterations of the ecology began with the Maori arrival. They hunted the flightless kiwi and cleared forest habitat for farming. But it was the arrival of Europeans that vastly transformed the islands in just 200 years. They brought their grazing animals, sheep and cattle, and imported the grasses that they feed upon. Large portions of both islands are now ranches. European settlement also brought many mammal species that prey on the flightless natives. Rats arrived on ships and devour both eggs and chicks, as do feral cats.

Strange though it sounds, possums were introduced intentionally in 1837 for the fur trade and to “enrich” the islands’ bio-diversity. The marsupial

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— Friday January 31, 7PM, State Theatre

Tapped

Sierra Club Moshannon Group will sponsor a showing of the documentary **Tapped** on January 31st at the State Theatre.

Tapped (2009) details the social and ecological impact of the bottled water industry and demonstrates how our water usage policies exacerbate climate disruption. For example, large reservoirs, particularly in warm climates like Brazil, emit as much carbon dioxide from the decomposition of organic material as the dirtiest coal burning plant.

Large corporations like Pepsico and Nestle extract groundwater for bottling and deny the people who live in the area from utilizing the water that is necessary for all life.

Millions of children in poor countries, whose families cannot afford to purchase bottled water, must drink water



Seal attempting to eat a discarded plastic bottle.

that is contaminated with pollutants and bacteria and thousands die from water borne diseases. In our country many communities face drying up of wells and the loss of river systems that provide habitat for many plant and animal species.

The loss of fresh water is the first crisis of climate change. Join us for this instructive film.

Ticket information:

www.thestatetheatre.org

— Thursday March 20, 7PM, State Theatre

A Fierce Green Fire

Sierra Club Moshannon Group will sponsor a showing of **A Fierce Green Fire** on Thursday March 20 at the State Theatre. **A Fierce Green fire:** The Battle For a Living Planet is the first big-picture exploration of the environmental movement - grassroots and global activism spanning fifty years from conservation to climate change. From halting dams in the Grand Canyon to battling 20,000 tons of toxic waste at Love Canal; from Greenpeace saving the whales to Chico Mendes and the rubber tappers saving the Amazon; from climate change to the promise of transforming our civilization... the film tells vivid stories about people fighting - and succeeding - against enormous odds. The film is divided into five "acts".

Act 1 focuses on the conservation movement of the '60s, David Brower and the Sierra Club's battle to halt dams in the Grand Canyon. Narrated by Robert Redford.

Act 2 looks at the new environmental movement of the '70s with its emphasis on pollution, focusing on the battle led by Lois Gibbs over Love Canal. Narrated by Ashley Judd.

Act 3 is about alternative ecology strands and the main story is Greenpeace's campaign to save the whales. Narrated by Van Jones.

Act 4 explores global resource issues and crises of the '80s, focusing on the struggle to save the Amazon led by Chico Mendes and the rubber tappers. Narrated by Isabel Allende.

Act 5 concerns climate change. Narrated by Meryl Streep.

Ticket information:

www.thestatetheatre.org



Calendar

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OUTINGS

Find the most recent additions to our outings, as well as maps for the outings listed above, on our website — www.sierramsh.org

Saturday, February 8, 9:30 AM Design a Hike from Hoover Pets Permitted

Meet 9:30 AM in the Quehanna Wild Area at the Hoover Farm parking lot where the Quehanna Highway intersects with Wykoff Run Rd or meet at the Snow Shoe commuter parking lot at 8:45 AM to carpool. Bring lunch/water. Weather and trail conditions will determine length, type, and locale of hike in the QWA. Hike can range from 3-7 miles, i.e., 3-4 for snowshoeing or up to 7 for regular hiking. For more info, have need of snowshoes, or in case of questionable weather, contact hike leader, Terri Davis, at nugenie@aol.com or 814-355-3345.

Saturday, March 8, 9:30 AM Design a Hike from Hoover

Meet 9:30 AM in the Quehanna Wild Area at the Hoover Farm parking lot where the Quehanna Highway intersects with Wykoff Run Rd or meet at the Snow Shoe commuter parking lot at 8:45 AM to carpool. Bring lunch/water. Weather and trail conditions will determine length, type, and locale of hike in the QWA. Hike can range from 3-7 miles, i.e., 3-4 for snowshoeing or up to 7 for regular hiking. For more info, have need of snowshoes, or in case of questionable weather, contact hike leader, Terri Davis, at nugenie@aol.com or 814-355-3345.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOW SHOEING

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

Winter Party!

Details on page 1, and on our website.

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Invasion of New Zealand

imports are especially harmful since they, like the kiwi, are nocturnal. When the kiwi adults are out searching for food, the possums are hunting kiwi chicks and eggs. Pigs, dogs, and stoats have also ravaged the bird populations.

Despite the extensive changes wrought since the arrival of humans, New Zealand is a land of breathtaking beauty and environmental diversity.

Join us during our winter party for a pictorial presentation of the North Island including Tongariro National Park, geysers and mud pools, the huge caldera Lake Taupo, and hot springs on the Pacific shore.

Imagine Sierra Club Moshannon Group with your participation and with additional members.



A small way to make a world of difference.

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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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Moshannon Group Directory

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All phone numbers listed above are area code 814

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Calendar

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

April 11&12, 2014, Friday and Saturday.
 Location: State High School South Auditorium
 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.

www.sierramsh.org