



Moshannon Group News

Moshannon Group of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club

December 2000

OFF THE CHAIR!

By Dave Coleman, Chair, Moshannon Group

You will notice that in the Events Calendar there are no scheduled general group meetings for January or February. Some of our few regular meeting attendees will not know what to do on the third Tuesday of the month, but for most of you reading this, it will not change the itinerary of your normal month.

At the November executive committee meeting of the group, we decided to limit our general program meetings to topics that are complementary to local environmental issues, outings or other activism activities. This was due to a few factors, not the least of which is the relatively low attendance at the meetings - although some have been better attended than others. In fact, we

have found that the programs featuring timely local based issues have been the best attended.

To make the most of our group of the Sierra Club - to make the most of these programs - we need to efficiently and effectively produce programs that will attract more members than some of our efforts have in the past. We have some ideas of comprehensive issues and activities, but we need input. If you have an idea of a good topic for a meeting, outing or event - especially if you would like to get involved with such a program, let us know. We would appreciate any input from any of our members. This could be just the spark to help us all get off the chair.

EVENTS CALENDAR

General Meetings:

The Executive Committee of the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club has decided to stop holding general meetings for the time being. If there is an interest in reviving these meetings, please contact any of the Executive Committee members and let them know.

Executive Committee Meetings:

These meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month and they are open to all members. Call an Executive Committee Member for the next meeting location.

Outings:

Sunday, January 14: Cross country skiing in the Rock Run area. Call Gary Thornbloom 353-3466.

Sunday February 18, Cross country skiing in the Quehanna Wild Area.. Call Dave Coleman 234-0839.

Christmas party:

Saturday, December 16 at Jan's house. See the notice in this newsletter.

It's a Party...and You're Invited!

The annual Christmas party is scheduled for **Saturday, December 16 at 7:00pm** at the home of Jan and Bob Filiaggi. The address is **310 Mountain Road, in Shingletown**. Many of you know this as the road to Shingletown Gap. It's sure to be as fun as last year - probably more! - so mark your calendars early and plan on coming! Bring your favorite appetizer and the Sierra Club will provide beverages. Don't forget to bring a friend too! Here's how to get there:

From Atherton: go toward Boalsburg, turn right on RT 45 West. Go 1.8 miles and turn left on Mountain Road. The house is ¼ miles up on the right, across from the log cabins. **Address on mailbox.**

From Rt. 26: go toward Pine Grove Mills, turn left on 45 East. Go about 3 miles (past power station on left) and turn right on Mountain Road. House is ¼ mile up on right.

CORRIDOR O Update

By Gary Thornbloom

The recent Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting began with the announcement that the Strawband Beaver interchange was off the table. The Moshannon Group had taken the position that an interchange at this location would fragment and degrade the

(Continued on page 3)

Statements By Candidates For The Executive Committee Of The Moshannon Group

Joe Banks

Twenty four year member of the Sierra Club. Founding member of the Moshannon Group, and have served in most group positions. Active in calendar sales and fund raising. Am especially interested in slowing growth and preserving lands in the Centre Region. Also interested in population issues and neighborhood parks, as well as environmental education.

George W. Bush

Will increase logging on federal lands, exploit wilderness for oil company profits, ignore the global warming alarm. If elected, will do for Central Pennsylvania's environment what he has accomplished for the environment in Texas.

Jan Filiaggi

As a Sierra Club member for the last 4 years, I have enjoyed working on the newsletter and serving on the Executive Committee. I am always amazed at how much a few hands and voices can do to effect the environment – even if it is in seemingly small ways. One day spent planting trees or cleaning a river has a ripple effect that touches many lives – both animal and human. In the Sierra Club, we get an opportunity to do these things and make these small changes. They add up. For this reason I wish to continue volunteering as an Executive Committee member.

Al Gore

Will set aside and protect wilderness for-

estland, promote sane energy policies, strengthen the Clean Water and Air Acts and seek a rational Global Warming treaty. Wants every vote to count and urges all Moshannon Group members to vote.

Judy Tanner

I have been a member of the Sierra Club for fifteen years and secretary of the Moshannon Group for several years. It's important that we all become more involved in protecting the beautiful and important natural resources that we enjoy. I am a RN and live in Southern Huntingdon County.

“Wildlife of Pennsylvania”

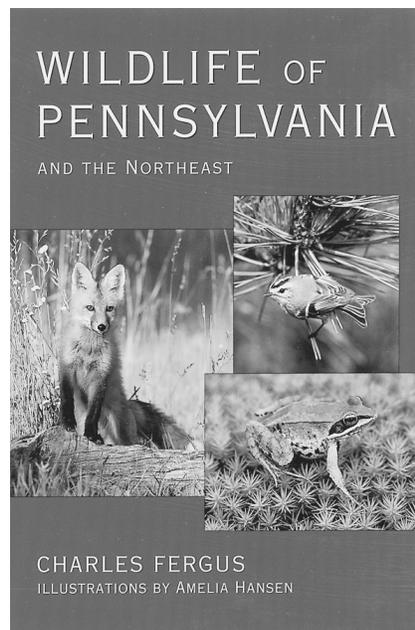
Local author Charles Fergus's most recent book “Wildlife of Pennsylvania” is a book that you will want to keep handy for reference when you return from your forays into the woods of Central Pennsylvania. A supplement to field guides, this hefty book of over 400 pages will allow you to learn more about the mammal, bird, amphibian or reptile that caught your attention while out in the woods or out on the streams.

Fergus combines scientific information with the keen observations of a naturalist that has spent more than his fair share of time out in the wild. At the end of the text on each species there are key references that enable you to further pursue your inquiry. Along with the facts are the encounters:

Suddenly the quiet forest erupts. Black creatures flog into the air all around us, huge dark shapes rising, and my heart hammers wildly and every nerve in my body shrills as I clutch for Dad's pantleg— They were the first wild turkeys I had ever seen.

I remember vividly, in a wooded mountain gap in Centre County, lifting my foot over a log and

hearing a sound of pure danger—like a live electric wire or a chunk of fat thrown into a red-hot skillet. Before my mind even registered “Snake!” my body had thrown itself backward. I peered over the log at a rattlesnake coiled where I had almost set foot.



It is the detail and personal anecdotes that will keep you turning pages long after you have read about the critter that you turned to the book to find out more about. Illustrations by Amelia Hansen are scattered throughout the book and are a delight to the eye.

A prerequisite to being able to defend a place is to get a sense of place. Each of us can fight a better conservation battle when we have a better sense of where we live. “Wildlife of Pennsylvania” is one more tool in developing our sense of place.

This is a well written, informative book that belongs on the desk of every person who enjoys the outdoors of Central Pennsylvania and of every person who wants to become better acquainted with the “Wildlife of Pennsylvania.”

—reviewed by Gary Thornbloom

*******Ballot*******

Vote by placing a checkmark next to no more than three nominees and return this ballot concerning the governing executive committee of the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club. Ballots must be received by **Dec. 28, 2000**. Mail to **Elections, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804**.

_____ **Joe Banks**

_____ **George W. Bush**

_____ **Jan Filiaggi**

_____ **Al Gore**

_____ **Judy Tanner**

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.

Corridor O (Continued from page 1)

Moshannon State Forest, so this was good news. PENN DOT made this decision based on traffic analysis that had been done prior to suggesting Corridor O interchange locations.

The battle is not over, because the Moshannon Valley Development Partnership as well as other advocates for developing Mid-State Airport have not yet given up. It is important to realize that development of Mid-State Airport can only occur at the expense of the Moshannon State Forest and/or Black Moshannon State Park.

With the current lack of activity at the airport, with no road in the future, with problems in paying back taxes...is it time to think boldly and return these lands to their former status of state forest and state park lands?

Contact your state representative and pass on your concern that:

- 1) Corridor O not be allowed to degrade or fragment public lands.
- 2) Consideration be given to returning Mid-State Airport to the Bureau of Parks and Forestry.

Reminder: calendar sales profits make up practically ALL of the Group's annual budget. Please order at least one calendar to help the group help Central Pennsylvania's environment!

Make checks payable to Sierra Club Moshannon Group and mail to Bill Tanner, Rte.1 Box 1265, Mapleton PA 17052.

Moshannon Group of the
 Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra
 Club

P.O. Box 513
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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet.

Moshannon Group Directory *members of the Executive Committee

Chair & Conservation	*Dave Coleman	234-0839	dyatesc@aol.com
Vice Chair	*Hilary Vida	371-3277	
Treasurer	*Bill Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
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Membership

Yes, I want to help safeguard our nation's precious natural heritage. My check is enclosed.

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Contributions, gifts and dues to the 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 \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
INTRODUCTORY	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	
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