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CLUB**  
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# Moshannon Group News

SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP

November 2007 | Issue 4

“WHAT’S BEST  
FOR THE  
CANYON?”



Photo by Joann Leonard

## SPRING CREEK CANYON

### *MANY FRIENDS, BUT NOT IN HIGH PLACES*

—by Gary Thornbloom

The Pleasant Gap, Centre County, auditorium where the House State Government Committee held a hearing on October 25 to take testimony concerning the Rockview land transfer was filled by 140 people who overwhelmingly opposed transferring the Spring Creek Canyon uplands to Penn State University. Moshannon Group member Lynne Heritage set the tone for the day by organizing a respectful demonstration—signs stating “No to HB 1657” and “Save Our Canyon” greeted State Representatives, the media, and general public—that preceded a press conference by Robert Leonard, who also presented the Moshannon Group testimony at the hearing.

Despite this opposition the Centre Daily Times used a quote from committee chair Representative Babette Josephs to generate the headline “Matter of when, not if”. And that has been the problem with this transfer from the beginning. Public interest and public input was never sought in determining whom these lands should go to. That was a main point in the testimony of those opposing the transfer to Penn State. Those supporting the transfer to Penn State repeatedly evaded the question by local Representative Kerry Benninghoff as to when the public had had an opportunity for input about who should get

*(Continued on page 7)*

## EVENTS

### CALENDAR

#### PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Public Presentations are open to both members and non-members. Presentations are held at the **Schlow Centre Region Library**, Community Room, 211 S. Allen Street, downtown State College. 2008 Presentations will be announced in upcoming Newsletters and on our website.

#### OUTINGS

**Contact information in directory at the end of Newsletter.**

**Sunday December 2, Hiking** on Chuck Keiper Trail, Centre and

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# MOSHANNON MUSINGS

*Gary Thornbloom*

Moshannon Group members have been busy in the past several months working to build bridges to other conservation, sportsmen's, and community groups.

Ed Perry, our Spring Creek Canyon Coordinator, put together the Spring Creek Alliance which joined our group with twenty other local and state organizations who are working together to protect Spring Creek Canyon and its surrounding uplands. Some of the hunters and fishermen in these groups have found themselves surprised to be working with the Sierra Club, but this type of coalition can be very effective.

Throughout the summer and fall several of us worked with ClearWater Conservancy, Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and Spring Creek Watershed Community on several different projects. We had limited success. We failed to bring ClearWater into agreement with the rest of the conservation and sportsmen's community to oppose Representative Hanna's House Bill 1657 that would transfer Spring Creek Canyon uplands to Penn State. We had success in working with those groups and others to sponsor a Centre County Commissioner Candidates Forum where a capacity audience heard candidates answer relevant questions on the environment.

We worked with ClearWater Conservancy, PA Native Plant Society, Juniata Valley Audubon, the Spring Creek Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the PA Fish & Boat Commission on another very successful event that included a hike through Spring Creek Canyon.

Moshannon Group members Robert Leonard and Lynne Heritage put together an effective press conference and respectful demonstration before the October House State Government Committee Hearing on HB 1657. Robert Leonard then presented Moshannon Group testimony before the committee and Ed Perry presented testimony representing the Spring Creek Alliance.

Why not meet some of these people and find out how with your help and involvement the Moshannon Group can have an even greater impact on local and regional issues?

## MOSHANNON GROUP NEWSLETTER NOW ACCEPTING ADVERTISEMENTS

We are now accepting paid advertisements in our Newsletter. Our goal is to present products, businesses and services that will be of interest to our membership. Ad revenue will also help to pay for the Newsletter, but our intent is that our membership will find these ads useful.

If you are interested in placing an ad or know someone who would be interested contact Gary Thornbloom, Newsletter Editor: 814-353-3466 or [bearknob@verizon.net](mailto:bearknob@verizon.net).

## Moshannon Group E-Mail Service is Now Available!

Interested in keeping up with your local Sierra Club Moshannon Group? We now have a new way for you to hear what's going on. A new e-mail list has been set up to inform you of upcoming presentations, outings, special events such as the Banff film festival, and periodic summaries of issues the Moshannon Group is working on. No need to worry about swamping your inboxes - announcements will be kept to a weekly or biweekly digest and the list is not open to general replies and discussion. Interested in joining us? Go to the Moshannon Group website—as easy as [www.sierramsh.org](http://www.sierramsh.org)—and one click will let you select **Join or Leave the List**.

This list will only work if Moshannon Group members take the time to sign up and make use of it. This is a great opportunity for you to learn of opportunities to get involved and to stay informed. **See you out there!**

## MIKE SAVAGE ELECTED RUSH SUPERVISOR

Incumbents almost always win elections so it was especially sweet that challenger Mike Savage was able to beat long time Rush Township Supervisor Jack Shannon.

The positions were well defined in this race. Shannon's record spoke for itself: he is one of the biggest supporters of the proposed landfill for Rush Township as well as the newly revealed idea of an I-80/Route 504 connector. Both the landfill and the connector significantly and negatively impact the Moshannon State Forest.

It was an easy choice for the Moshannon Group to endorse Savage. Savage brings the skills and vision that will not only make Rush Township a better and stronger township, but will also make it a better neighbor to surrounding townships and to all of Centre County.

Congratulations Mike! And thank you to Moshannon Group members who helped get Mike elected!

# PENNSYLVANIA BIOLOGICAL SURVEY ISSUES STATEMENT ON INDUSTRIAL WINDFARMS ON PUBLIC LANDS: *Wind Power Development on Public Lands – It Isn't Worth It*

*By the Pennsylvania Biological Survey*

The Pennsylvania Biological Survey is a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to increase the knowledge of and foster the perpetuation of the natural biological diversity of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Our membership includes scientists, representatives of state and federal agencies concerned with natural resource management, and representatives of non-profit conservation organizations.

PABS technical committees serve as official advisory committees to several natural resource agencies in the state, including the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Game Commission, and Fish and Boat Commission.

After reviewing evidence on the environmental costs and benefits of wind energy, PABS is opposed to wind energy development on Pennsylvania natural resource agency lands.

We are aware of the serious environmental costs of fossil fuel energy sources, including the threats of global climate change to Pennsylvania's natural biological diversity. We therefore support the responsible development of alternative energy sources, including properly sited wind energy development.

However, because wind energy development has associated environmental costs, wind energy development should only be instituted on state lands if the environmental benefits can be demonstrated to exceed the environmental costs.

Based on the available evidence, it is our conclusion that wind energy development is not suitable on state-owned lands where natural resource conservation is a major goal (i.e., primarily lands owned and managed by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Pennsylvania Game Commission).

**The reason for our opposition can be summarized as follows:**

The environmental benefits of wind energy development, in the mid-Atlantic area in general and on Pennsylvania state lands in particular, are small relative to the negative consequences, which include habitat fragmentation and mortality to birds and bats.

The primary environmental benefit of wind energy production is that it offsets the use of fossil fuels, thereby reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas.

The Department of Energy projects that by 2020, wind power will meet 1.2 to 4.5 percent of the country's electric-

ity generation, and will thus offset emissions of carbon dioxide from electricity generation by 1.2 to 4.5 percent. Since electricity generation accounts for 39 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the United States, wind power will offset between 0.5 and 1.8 percent of total carbon dioxide emissions (National Research Council 2007).

The National Research Council (2007) concludes "Wind energy will contribute proportionately less to electricity generation in the mid-Atlantic region than in the United States as a whole, because a smaller portion of the region has high-quality wind resources than the portion of high-quality wind resources in the United States as a whole."

Thus, it is apparent that wind energy development in the mid-Atlantic will offset a very minor portion of future carbon dioxide emissions.

Because Commonwealth Natural Resource Agency Lands make up only a fraction of land in Pennsylvania, the contribution of wind energy development on these lands to future energy needs, as well as any offset of carbon dioxide emissions, will be negligible.

Energy conservation, on the other hand, could considerably reduce the demand for energy and thus reduce carbon dioxide emissions. For example, residential home energy consumption in 2020 could be feasibly reduced by over 1/3 using existing technologies (Bressand et al. 2007).

The environmental impacts of wind energy are considerable. Mortality to birds and bats has been of particular concern. Bat mortality from wind turbines has been particularly high, especially along forested ridge tops in the eastern United States.

Because bats generally have low reproductive rates, cumulative negative impacts of wind energy development on bat populations are likely (Kunz et al. 2007). Based on projections of installed wind capacity, it is estimated that by 2020 annual mortality in the mid-Atlantic highlands could be as high as 45,000 birds (National Research Council 2007) and 111,000 bats (Kunz et al. 2007).

With wind energy development expanding on private lands in Pennsylvania, the forested ridge tops of state-owned lands will become even more critical for birds, bats, and other species that utilize these habitats.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# OUTDOOR WOOD BURNING FURNACES —ISSUES WITH AIR QUALITY

Outdoor wood burning furnaces have become increasingly popular due to the perceived benefits of convenience, cheap installation and cheap operating costs. The number of OWF's sold in 2003 and 2004 equaled the number of OWF's sold in the previous fourteen years. As of 2005, over 150,000 were sold nationally, and by 2010, it is expected that there will be over 500,000. Unfortunately, the emissions from these furnaces represent bad news for air quality, both locally and globally. Some state and local governments are responding with strict regulations and ordinances. If your community does not yet have an ordinance, it should!

There are three design factors relating to OWF's that cause them to emit large amounts of smoke even when operated properly: the water jacket around the firebox, the large firebox, and their cyclic operation. Wood cannot be completely combusted below 1000 F and the lower operating temperatures of these furnaces favor the production of hazardous pollutants. Other factors that lower burn tempera-

tures, such as wet or green wood, further aggravate the problem. Lower burn temperatures, cyclic operation, and the lack of anti-pollution devices, such as catalytic combustors, all combine to cause OWF's to emit significantly more particulate matter than most other residential wood burning devices.

Even the smallest OWF can have an average in-use emissions rate of fine particulates that is about twenty times higher than an EPA-certified wood stove. The short-term particulate spikes can be especially high. Moreover, most existing OWF's do not provide for the oxidation of the partially combusted vapors by catalytic combustors or other means, adding to their toxicity.

In addition to poor combustion properties, the relatively short stack height of OWF's results in poor dispersion of smoke, which is more likely to cause intense smoke exposure within surrounding areas. Because fine particulates are able to penetrate readily into dwellings, OWF wood smoke emissions can also impact the indoor air quality of nearby

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## MOUNTAINSIDE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT THREATENS BRUSH MOUNTAIN, WETLANDS & LITTLE JUNIATA RIVER

*by Stan Kotala*

The Moshannon Group is alarmed by the proposed housing development known as the "Kettle Creek Planned Residential Development". The location of the proposed building site is in Logan Township, Blair County between Carlisle Lane and Kettle Road just east of I-99 on the western slope of Brush Mountain. Construction of this 500-unit development on 270 acres of steep mountainside will necessitate the crossing of Kettle Creek (to meet Logan Township requirements for 2 access roads) as well as crossing 5 first-order tributaries of Sandy Run, which flows into the Little Juniata River, a world-renowned trout stream, and crossing and/or filling in wetlands associated with these streams.

Kettle Creek, also a tributary of the Little Juniata River, was surveyed in fall of 2006 by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC) and was found to have an excellent population of wild brook trout in the project area (160 brook trout of all age classes were found in ~1/8 mile of Kettle Creek). Also, during this same survey, a DEP biologist collected a number of macroinvertebrates that are indicative of very high water quality (meriting HQ or EV status). Likewise, Sandy Run was recently surveyed by the PFBC and found to contain naturally recruited wild brown

trout. These tributaries emanating from Brush Mountain provide high quality water to the upper Little Juniata River and provide spawning habitat for both brown and brook trout. Because of the presence of the wild trout populations any wetlands adjacent to these waterways are automatically designated "Exceptional Value (EV)" by the DEP and should therefore be afforded maximum protection.

This development proposes extremely dense housing on the steep western slope of Brush Mountain. Preliminary plans show large amounts of impervious surface such as rooftops, driveways, sidewalks, and asphalt roads covering the 270-acre site, which currently is covered by mature deciduous forest. Throughout this forest are many spring seeps, 1st order streams, and small wetlands. Replacement of this steep mountainside forest habitat with dense residential development will result in a huge increase in stormwater runoff, increased water temperature, increased chemical and particulate pollution of streams feeding the Little Juniata River, as well as a loss of habitat for native wildlife, including brook trout.

Because of the potential for impacts by this development to

*(Continued on page 8)*

# PA'S ENDANGERED HIKING TRAILS

by Paul Shaw and John Stein

In the past five years, the Horse-Shoe Trail in southeastern Pennsylvania has faced at least five trail closures requiring relocations or rerouting onto roads. In southcentral Pennsylvania, the Standing Stone Trail was denied continued access to a property, resulting in a 4.2 mile roadwalk that continues to this day. Near the Susquehanna River, the Mason-Dixon Trail lost access when a property was resold, forcing two miles of very steep side hill trail construction requiring 1600 volunteer hours to build. The Rachel Carson Trail near Pittsburgh faces possible eviction on one of its segments. The Tuscarora Trail has been severed by landowner closure near Carlisle.

With more than 3,000 miles of designated hiking trails on public lands and thousands of additional miles of hiking trails on private lands, Pennsylvania's hiking community has established one of the finest networks of trails in the country. Public perception is that these trails will be around forever. But these and many other examples from all corners of Pennsylvania prove the precarious state of many of our trails, particularly those crossing private property. In Pennsylvania, only the Appalachian Trail, through an act of Congress, can be considered a permanent fixture.

Trail clubs use a variety of methods to secure access to trails on private land. Most landowner agreements allowing foot trail access are based on handshakes, subject to the whims of landowners. Even with the most cooperative landowners, trouble often ensues when the land is resold or

the property is passed on to heirs. More effective methods include written permission letters, trail easements, conservation easements and land donations and acquisitions. Courthouse registered easements in perpetuity or land donations and acquisitions are the ultimate goals for permanently securing our trails.

## *The Endangered Hiking Trail Program*

With the long-term goal of securing trail access in perpetuity for all of Pennsylvania's hiking trails, KTA is launching the Endangered Hiking Trail Program. We are now actively seeking volunteers for training who have the desire, attitude, and personality to work with landowners and land managers to secure trail access. We are looking for the select few who have the combined traits needed to be truly effective negotiators. Since so much of landowner negotiation is based on personal relationships, individuals must be willing to commit at least three years to the program.

Once selected, volunteers will be thoroughly trained on the various types of trail agreements, provided models of written agreements, and taught how to best approach and interact with landowners. When we have recruited our first class of ten people, we will begin training.

If you would like to be considered for this most important program, please contact Paul Shaw [ktahike@verizon.net](mailto:ktahike@verizon.net) for an application and more information. You, and your fellow hikers, will be glad you did.

## Wind Power Development on Public Lands *(Continued from page 3)*

Another important, and often overlooked, impact of wind development is habitat fragmentation and its associated effects. These effects include reduced habitat area, habitat isolation and loss of species from an area, disruption of dispersal, increased edge effects and loss of core habitat, and facilitation of invasive species (Groom et al. 2006).

Due to their linearity, roads and transmission lines, both of which accompany wind energy development, have particularly pronounced fragmentation effects (Groom et al. 2006, Willyard et al. 2004).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2003) recommends that wind energy development "avoid fragmenting large, contiguous tracts of wildlife habitat" and advises that wind turbines be placed "on lands already altered or cultivated, and away from areas of intact and healthy native habitats."

Because natural resource agency lands are among the last remaining large blocks of unfragmented land in Pennsylvania, these lands are particularly in need of protection. A publication produced by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (Moyer 2003) emphasizes the importance of preserving these last remaining large blocks of unfragmented habitat in the state.

In conclusion, the environmental benefits wind energy development on natural resource agency lands in Pennsylvania are negligible compared with the environmental consequences. These lands should remain closed to wind energy development.

*For more information contact Dr. Tim Maret, Department of Biology, Shippensburg University, by calling 717-477-1170 or sending email to: [tjmare@ship.edu](mailto:tjmare@ship.edu).*

## WINTER PARTY FEBRUARY 3

The Moshannon Group will have our annual Winter Party on Sunday, February 3. All members, friends, and guests of the Moshannon Group are invited to come and enjoy a partial or full day of fun. Cabin 20 at Black Moshannon State Park is the location.

This converted ski lodge has lots of space and a great view of the area. Hot chocolate / beverages will be available from 1PM and the lodge will be the meeting point for several ski outings (weather dependant and of varying length / ability). Sledding and tubing are also possibilities. If snow is lacking, we will do some hiking.

Dinner consisting of "passed dishes" and "favorite deserts" will be at approximately 4 pm. A limited number of beds / rooms in Cabin 20 are available by prior arrangement; contact Ron Johnson at [greenbowl@verizon.net](mailto:greenbowl@verizon.net) for those that may want to stay overnight.

We are currently making plans for after dinner, last year we provided short updates on local conservation issues and showed short selections from the upcoming Banff films. Let an excom member know what you would like.

**DIRECTIONS TO CABIN 20:** Route 220 to Unionville; Route 504 towards Black Moshannon State Park; turn right at the Cabin 20 sign just prior to hill descending into the park.

Coming from Black Moshannon State Park: Cabin 20 is just east of Park at the top of the hill. There is a sign for Cabin 20 along Route 504 at the left turn to the cabin.

CHECK THE WEBSITE for details on times, outings, and for additional details in mid-January or CONTACT Ron Johnson.

## EVENTS CALENDAR *(Continued from page 1)*

Clinton Counties. Remote and scenic hike of about 7.5 miles to scenic waterfall and pristine backwoods areas. Moderate to difficult. Because of challenges with access and parking, this hike may be postponed in the event of heavy snow. Contact Ben Cramer.

**Sunday December 16, Hiking** at Hook Natural Area, Union County. Moderate hike of about 8.5 miles through the largest natural area in Pennsylvania. There is a possibility of getting wet during this hike. Because of challenges with access and parking, this hike may be postponed in the event of heavy snow. Contact Ben Cramer.

**Saturday and Sunday, December 29-30,** Second annual Moshannon Group **winter backpacking** trip. Short hike to a secluded backcountry campsite. Location to be determined. For experienced outdoors persons. Contact Ben Cramer.

**Saturday January 19, Cross-country skiing** on the Rock Run Trail, Centre County. This can be a hike if winter does not cooperate. Contact Gary Thornbloom.

**Sunday February 3, Outings** at our 3rd annual **Winter Party** at Black Moshannon State Park Cabin. Contact Ron Johnson.

**Cross-Country Skiing and Snow Shoeing.** Join a contact list for outings to be scheduled as snow conditions allow. Contact Gary Thornbloom.

### ANNUAL WINTER PARTY

**Sunday February 3,** See article on this page.

### 5TH ANNUAL BANFF FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

**Sunday and Monday April 27 & 28**  
Put it on your calendar!

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All members welcome. Held on the **first Tuesday** of the month, 7PM at ClearWater Conservancy. Call an Executive Committee Member to confirm the next meeting location and date.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

## Sierra Club 2008 Calendars

**Buy from us and support local conservation work!**

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### 2008 CALENDAR ORDER FORM

	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
<b>Engagement Calendar</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	_____	_____
<b>Wilderness Calendar</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>	_____	_____

*(Tax included in price as listed)*

**Subtotal** \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping:** \$3 for one, \$5 for two and \$1.00 for each additional calendar.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**      **Grand Total** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ship to:** Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to "Sierra Club Moshannon Group" and mail to Paula Thornbloom, Calendar Chair, 702 Hall Road, Julian PA 16844. Call 814-353-3466 to arrange to pick up calendars in the State College area.



Photo by Joann Leonard

## SPRING CREEK CANYON *(Continued from page 1)*

these lands. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary DiBerardinis, who is also on Penn State's board of trustees, said that it was "not in my purview." If protecting natural lands, lands identified as a gem owned by the state of Pennsylvania is not in his purview, then whose purview would that fall under?

DCNR should have taken the lead role in protecting these lands, and instead they have done everything possible to clear the way for Penn State. ClearWater Conservancy, an entity that many in the Centre Region deeply respect, while professing neutrality, has also taken a lead role in clearing the way for Penn State. DCNR and ClearWater have chosen to work with politicians who made the land transfer decision behind closed doors. They are now portraying conservation easements as the solution that will protect Spring Creek Canyon. Conservation easements are only necessary with land that is owned by entities whose mission is not conservation. DCNR and ClearWater are providing cover for a bad political decision, for a decision that has not put what is best for Spring Creek Canyon as the highest priority.

Leonard framed the Moshannon Group testimony by asking what we are arguing about, why are we arguing and how can we resolve this. As part of "what" Leonard referred to a recent national Sierra Club publication "America's Wild Legacy" which includes Spring Creek Canyon as one of the 52 most important places in the American landscape that need to be protected. The uplands are the key to protecting and preserving the Canyon, which includes a world class fishery as well as rare plant and animal species.

"Why" we are arguing is because this is public land, acknowledged by all to be a natural gem, and it is being given away by politicians who made the decision, with no public input, to give the uplands to Penn State.

"How" this can be resolved is for the House State Government Committee to reject House Bill 1657, and to reconsider the issue with no preconceived owner for the land; to seek public input, and guarantee that this precious natural resource will remain in the public domain protected by an entity with conservation as its mission.

Penn State and Benner Township officials, along with representatives from the agricultural industry supported the transfer. Western Pa Conservancy said they were neutral. ClearWater Conservancy said it was not opposed to the transfer. Testimony from the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Trout Unlimited, Spring Creek Watershed Community, Spring Creek Alliance, and local resident Brooks Parker all opposed Penn State getting the land.

- Contact your State Representative and urge them to vote against House Bill 1657.
- Contact Senator Corman and urge him to oppose transferring the uplands to Penn State.
- Contact Ed Perry at [paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com) to be included in email updates on this issue.

## **OBF's** *(Continued from page 4)*

neighbors. This is why communities, especially in rural areas, are rushing to put ordinances in place. Affected homeowners may otherwise have no choice but to sue their neighbors in order to preserve their right to breathe clean air in their own home or yard.

It is important to note that leaf burning, trash burning, and other open burning, are not equivalent in health risk to OWF's. Due to the duration and frequency of the exposure to the pollutants, the potential for health problems is much greater for OWF's than from short-term exposure to smoke resulting from the open burning. Some OWF operators, thinking only of generating heat, use their furnaces as incinerators! The risk from the smoke is substantially increased by burning rubber, plastics, and various household chemicals. These "fuels" should not be burnt in residential areas under any circumstances.

On January 29, 2007, EPA announced emission standards for OWF's that include OWF emission targets to be met in two phases. Up to this point, OWF's were said to be exempt from EPA regulation. That did not mean they have been studied and given an exemption. It meant simply that they had not been addressed in existing regulations. In anticipation of tighter standards, lower emission models are already appearing on the market and it is anticipated that new developments by the manufacturers will now accelerate in light of the newly publicized EPA emission standards. The new lower emission models will be required to have a descriptive orange tag that provides information on smoke emissions. It is expected that Phase I EPA-certified OWF's will be available in the spring of 2007. Phase II furnaces may not be available until later, but it is clear that by March 31, 2010, EPA and NES-CAUM (Northeastern States for Coordinated Air Use Management) intend the PHASE II standard to be the standard for all furnaces produced and sold after that date.

This does not mean, however, that the OWF emissions issues will automatically be addressed. The actions by the EPA only set standards. If you are aware of, or directly experiencing, issues with an OWF, it will most likely be best addressed by a thorough and defensible local ordinance. These ordinances range from outright bans to a requirement that specific siting/installation criteria are met.

*This information is an abbreviated excerpt from a more extensive report (complete with useful references) prepared by a rural PA community that is currently drafting an ordinance to address the emission problems associated with OWF's. For a complete copy or more information, contact Ron Johnson at johnsonre@ynt.com.*

## **MOUNTAINSIDE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT**

*(Continued from page 4)*

the resources described above, the Moshannon Group asks that the DEP require an **Individual NPDES permit** for this project and that a **public hearing** be made part of the permit requirement.

*Please write a letter to the DEP requesting that the DEP require both an **Individual NPDES Permit** and a **public hearing** regarding the Kettle Creek Planned Residential Development in Logan Township, Blair County.*

Send your letter to:  
Mr. Ramez Ziadeh, P.E. Chief  
Permitting and Technical Services Section  
Watershed Management Program  
PA DEP Southcentral Regional Office  
909 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 177110-8200



**HELP!! Yes we still need a laptop!**

*Do you have an "old" laptop that is collecting dust or is lonely because you replaced it with a newer*

*model? We could put it to good use.*

*The Moshannon Group is seeking a reliable late-model donation that can:*

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- *operate remotely (good battery pack) supporting printers and other USB connected devices*

*If you have equipment that you'd consider donating, please call Ben at 404-1120.*

### **The Cottage at Black Moshannon**

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# CANDIDATE'S STATEMENTS AND BALLOT FOR THE MOSHANNON GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

—RONN BROURMAN—

—LAURA PIRAINO (SILVER)—

I have been a Sierra Club member since 1991 when I joined the Allegheny Group in Pittsburgh. I served as Program Director for the Moshannon Group for 6 years, and I am going into my 5<sup>th</sup> year as the Banff Coordinator, overseeing the production of the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour in State College. I have worked with other members of the Sierra Club on advocacy issues, including the Group's opposition of the proposed landfill in Rush Township and the protection of the Spring Creek Canyon.

If I am reelected as an Ex Comm member for another 2 year term, I will continue to work hard on advancing the Moshannon Group's position on the Rush Township landfill and Spring Creek issues, look for opportunities to recruit more active members and to work collaboratively with other conservation groups, including the Sierra Club Student Coalition. I hope to receive your vote. Thank you.

—GARY THORNBLOOM—

I have been a member of the Sierra Club since 1991 and actively involved with the Moshannon Group for the past eight years. I currently serve as Group Chair and Newsletter Editor.

With your support I will continue serving on the Moshannon Group Executive Committee. I have worked and will continue to work to involve more of the 1,000 members of the Moshannon Group in local conservation issues and activities. It continues to be my goal to get the local Sierra Club more involved with other conservation minded groups in our community. With more of our members involved and by reaching out to other organizations we can be a positive force throughout Central Pennsylvania. I believe that accomplishing small tasks locally will not only help to maintain, but will also to improve our quality of life. This in turn will help address the larger state and national conservation issues.

I believe in the vision and mission of John Muir. I will work with the Moshannon Group to get more people out in the woods and on the water in Central Pennsylvania. By getting out in the wild places we can then develop the passion to fight to preserve and expand these places. America's Wild Legacy, a recent Sierra Club publication quotes our founder John Muir, "Every good thing, great and small, needs defense." Along with you, I am ready to do just that.

My vision for the role of the Moshannon Group Sierra Club is to facilitate the adoption of sustainable design, technologies and stewardship practices that help to preserve our biodiversity, beautiful landscapes, and reinforce healthy communities and lifestyles. The Club can help identify and support policies that support conservation, sustainability, ecological literacy, and "green" institutions, businesses and industries.

**\*\*\*\*\*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 **January 7, 2008**. Mail to **Elections, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804**.

**Ronn Brouman**  
 **Ron Johnson**  
 **Laura Piraino (Silver)**  
 **Gary Thornbloom**

**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.**

Through my participation in the Executive Committee, I wish to serve by helping to increase understanding and appreciation of our natural systems, identify ways to educate and empower members to be good stewards, and facilitate connection between the club and diverse community partners. More specifically, I can assist the group in developing and offering educational programming, presentations, and supporting its advocacy efforts.

I am always learning from others, and I enjoy sharing what I have learned. I wish to listen to and solicit ideas from the Sierra Club membership to help generate programming ideas, and guide my decisions on other issues addressed by the Executive Committee.

—RON JOHNSON—

I have organized and participated in grassroots non-profits my entire adult life, so I am familiar with and enjoy the democratic process. Professionally I have been engaged in the environmental movement for many years. By participating in collective activities that have changed policy, I have gained some insight into our great potential as an organization, especially on the local level. We can also have fun together creating the community and environment we want to be in.

I am a passionate advocate for the environment, mindful living and love to hike, camp, cycle, canoe and garden organically. I have two adolescent children and am sensitive to the many challenges families face when trying to adopt stewardship practices. In serving the Sierra Club, I hope to bring to the process humor, humility, and compassion for others.

I have served on the MGSC for many years now because this group provides an important resource on local conservation and environmental issues. The SC mission to "explore, enjoy, and PROTECT this planet" has never been more appropriate or needed. As has always been the case, this (MGSC) group's greatest potential contribution is to educate, energize, and unify other like-minded individuals and groups in a manner to best protect our local resources. This is what we strive to do. Consequently, I intend to continue my involvement with the group and would gladly continue to serve on the excom.



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**P.O. BOX 513**  
**STATE COLLEGE, PA. 16804**

**Non-Profit Organization**  
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## Moshannon Group Directory

\*members of the Executive Committee

Chair , Newsletter	*Gary Thornbloom	353-3466	bearknob@verizon.net
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Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		Vogelsong100@yahoo.com
Nominating Committee	Joe Banks	234-4266	M-F Mornings only.

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### HELP PRESERVE SPRING CREEK CANYON!

*If you know organizations that would be interested in a power point presentation about the ecological benefits of placing Spring Creek Canyon under permanent protection, please contact Ed Perry at (814-466-7060) or [paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:paglobalwarmingoutreach@gmail.com)*

**SHORTCUT TO OUR WEBSITE for up to date information on events and outings: [www.sierramsh.org](http://www.sierramsh.org)**