



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892

# Moshannon Group News



SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP

February 2007 | Issue 1

—Public Presentation Tuesday March 6th

## LEADING CLIMATE RESEARCHER TO SPEAK IN STATE COLLEGE

Michael Mann, Associate Professor of Meteorology and Director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State, will give a lecture on global climate change on Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.

His talk, "Global Climate Change: Past and Future", will be held at the Schlow Library Community Room, located at 211 S. Allen Street, State College. Attendance is free and open to the public. This event is sponsored by the local Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club.

Professor Mann will discuss past, present, and future climates, and will present evidence that human activity is affecting the climate. This evidence includes temperature records since the mid-1800's, data from tree rings, pollen, ocean sediment cores, lake level reconstructions, glacial moraines, ice borehole measurements, and computer models. He will also discuss the likely effects of future warming on the United States.



*Professor Michael Mann with samples of tree rings*

Professor Mann is a leading expert on climate change. His research has helped to establish that the burning of fossil fuels and other human activities are causing global warming. Mann is a co-founder of the web site [www.RealClimate.org](http://www.RealClimate.org) chosen as one of the top 25 science and technology web sites by Scientific American in 2005. In 2002, Scientific American named him one of 50 leading visionaries in science and technology.

### 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.

**Tuesday, March 6, 7PM:** "Global Climate Change: Past and Future", a lecture on global climate change by Michael Mann, Associate Professor of Meteorology and Director of the Earth System Science Center at Penn State.

#### WINTER PARTY!

**Sunday, February 11**, at Black Moshannon State Park, Cabin 20. Winter activities, pot luck dinner, conversation, and previews of this year's films for the Banff Film Festival World Tour. Details on our website. Contact Ron Johnson.

#### OUTINGS

See the directory at the end of the newsletter for contact information.

**Saturday/Sunday, February 17-18**, Winter **backpacking** on Old Loggers Path, Lycoming County.

*(Continued on page 2)*

# BANFF WORLD TOUR 2007!

The Moshannon Group will bring the Banff Film Festival World Tour to State College for our 4th annual hosting of this event. This year's location is the State College High School North Auditorium. The event will be held on Sunday April 29 and Monday April 30. Different films will be shown each night, so plan to attend both nights! Details on our website, and in our next Newsletter.



MANDATORY PHOTO CREDIT:  
©*First Ascent: Thailand*. Credit: Rob Frost.  
Courtesy of The Banff Centre

## MOSHANNON GROUP EXCOM ELECTION RESULTS

Chalandra Bryant, Ben Cramer, Thornbloom, Chair; Ben Cramer, Stan Kotala, and Judy Tanner, Vice Chair; Judy Tanner, Secretary; Bill Tanner, Treasurer. were elected to two year terms on the Moshannon Group Excom.

The Excom then elected the following Officers for 2007: Gary  
Thank you to those of you who took the time to vote!

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

Moderate hike to a secluded and sheltered location in Tiadaghton State Forest, then unique cold weather camping overnight. For experienced outdoors persons.

Contact Ron Johnson.

**Late March/Early April**, Join us for a tour of a cooperative farm in Penns Valley, Centre County, with a possible bike tour of multiple farms included. Check our website for details.

Contact Ben Cramer.

**Saturday April 7, Canoeing and kayaking** at Pine Creek Gorge, Lycoming and Tioga Counties. Non-technical, 3-4 hour trip from Ansonia to Blackwell or Cedar Run, with possible side trip on adjacent Babbs Creek. With advance notice, Moshannon Group will attempt to form teams or provide watercraft for those who don't have their own. Participants must provide own life jackets, food, and other provisions. Contact Ron Johnson.

**Sunday May 6, Hike** of about 2-3 hours at Canoe Creek State Park, Blair County. This will be an easygoing hike, focusing on ecology and wildflower viewing. Start time 1:00 pm at the park Environmental Education Center. Contact Stan Kotala.

**Saturday and Sunday, May 12-13 (Tentative)**, Biking and backpacking on Pine Creek Trail, Lycoming and Tioga Counties. Bike from Jersey Shore to Ansonia, with overnight camping in a secluded spot near the Pine Creek bike trail. For experienced outdoorspersons. Plans to be made based on participant interest. Contact Ron Johnson.

**SNOWSHOEING:** If you are interested contact me and I will keep a list and put something together and let you know when and if there is enough snow. Contact Gary Thornbloom.

## BANFF FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR

**Sunday/Monday April 29-30**, The Moshannon Group will host the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour at 7PM at the State College High School North Auditorium. Details for ticket sales, and a list of films will soon be posted on our website and will be in our next Newsletter ( March/April). Contact Ronn Brouman.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All members are welcome. This is your opportunity to become involved in the Moshannon Group and to help set our goals, activities and agenda. Held on the **first Tuesday** of the month at 7PM at Clearwater Conservancy. Call an Executive Committee Member to confirm the next meeting location and date.

# WHO'S YOUR FARMER?

By Nell Hanssen

Wendell Berry, renowned writer and farmer, noted that “how we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used.” As eaters, we are presented with a baffling array of foreign and domestic foods to choose from. Generally, we’re given very little information about how our food is raised, or where it comes from. Not much can be told about a food’s origins once it has reached the grocery store.

All around the country, though, alternatives to this global food system are emerging. Central Pennsylvania, with its abundance of family farms, is part of this movement, which is re-creating means for buying foods grown right down the road, rather than foods shipped round the world. The potential impact that these local food systems could have on our health and our environment is impressive. Here are just a few good reasons to buy your food from local farmers.

**Healthy, Tasty Food!** With rising rates of obesity, diabetes, and the spread of fast food establishments throughout the country, there is no doubt that a change in our diet is essential. Local fruits and vegetables are picked when they are ripe, travel only a short distance to your table, and are fresh, delicious, and packed with nutrients. Furthermore, you will have the opportunity to try varieties not found in the grocery store, bred for flavor, not durability!

**A Stronger Local Economy.** Local farms create a channel through which we can invest in our community. The more channels we have, the healthier the community becomes. Getting to know the farmers who grow your food builds relationships based on understanding and trust, the foundation of strong communities.

**Protection for Family Farms.** A 2005 report from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation found sharp declines in the number of farms and total acreage of farmland over the last 50 years, and a steep decline in the share of consumer food dollars received by farmers. Buying local helps farmers earn a viable income from the land, enabling them to keep farming rather than having to sell to developers.

**Ecological and Humane Farming.** By providing a profit-

able market for local farmers, we have a means of influencing how our food is produced. We can support methods that seek to protect our waters, soils, and wildlife and provide humane treatment for farm animals.

**Lower Fossil Fuel Consumption.** Most food travels an average of 1300 miles before it reaches our dinner plate. Tremendous fuel savings can be achieved by buying food raised right here in our watershed, alleviating fossil fuel emissions that contribute to global climate change.

Residents of Central PA are blessed with a number of options when it comes to buying foods raised locally. You could join a CSA or Community Supported Agriculture farm, where members purchase a “share” of the harvest at the beginning of the season, and are then provided with a weekly box of fresh products throughout the year. Or try one of our “producer-only” farmers markets, which only feature foods raised by the local farmers who sell there (rather than food purchased at auction and resold).

In January of 2005, after several years of meetings with farmers, and other interested folks, I started a business, GroundWork Farms, which aims to connect our many talented farmers with people who are interested in eating local, healthy foods. There seemed to be several needs to fill at either end of this equation. Customers told me that it was hard to find the time to drive around to lots of different farms to track down all the foods they were looking for. Farmers mentioned that it was tough to find time to look for customers with so much to be done just running a farm operation. And if you are Amish, and do not have a phone, email or transportation, marketing is even more difficult!

So now I work with about 10 local farmers and I do their marketing for them so they can focus on production. Customers can submit their orders by email and I will deliver to their home, office, or other central location. We offer a wide range of local, organically raised farm products, including produce, raw dairy products, eggs, herbs, flower arrangements, bread, fruits, berries, and meats. Most are

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

*“How we eat determines, to a considerable extent, how the world is used.”*

*—Wendell Berry*

# STOP THE DUMP UPDATE!

Currently, there are three actions to take regarding the Resource Recovery Landfill. Individual comments are very important and could be critical in defeating the landfill proposal. *Individual efforts can make a big difference!*

**(1)** At this time, the RRLF application is still suspended pending information about the I-80 interchange. The RRLF application and the efficacy of this proposed landfill depends on it. Resource Recovery said it first in 2004: "No Exit, No Dump."

Even though the proposed I-80 Interchange is *not* consistent with local land use and transportation plans (and therefore does not meet FHWA policy guidelines for new interchanges), PennDOT forwarded the POA to FHWA in December 2006. **We must urge our state and federal legislators to stop this proposed interchange!**

Remind the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), your federal and state legislators that the proposed Exit 140 on I-80 is for nothing more than this landfill developer's dream. Encourage your federal and state representatives to go on record opposing the interchange. Anyone familiar with this area knows there is absolutely no public need for an interchange between the existing Snow Shoe and Kylertown exits... *but do our elected representatives know this?* Sample letters are available at [www.stoplandfill.com/samples.htm](http://www.stoplandfill.com/samples.htm)

Send comments opposing the proposed interchange to:  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
Mr. David W. Cough, Director of Operations  
228 Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17108  
Phone: 717-221-3411, Fax: 717-221-3494  
E-mail: [David.cough@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:David.cough@fhwa.dot.gov)

**(2) Send your public comments to the Army Corps of Engineers by Feb 14.** Resource Recovery plans to destroy a total of almost 11 acres of wetlands. The remaining 7 acres falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Protection. No other Pennsylvania landfill applicant has ever proposed to destroy such a large amount of wetland acres! In fact, since 1988 (yes, 19 years!) only 13.69

acres of wetlands have been sacrificed in *the entire state of Pennsylvania for ALL new landfills and expansions.*

The wetlands RRLC wants to destroy are not isolated, nor do they operate independent of the other water sources on the site. So far, the RRLF wetland mitigation plan has not been viewed favorably by either U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service ([http://www.stoplandfill.com/fileview/061023\\_Sect105\\_USFWS-DEP.pdf](http://www.stoplandfill.com/fileview/061023_Sect105_USFWS-DEP.pdf)) nor the PA Game Commission ([http://www.stoplandfill.com/fileview/061115\\_PGCDPEP\\_Wetlands.pdf](http://www.stoplandfill.com/fileview/061115_PGCDPEP_Wetlands.pdf)).

According to the Army Corps Public Notice: "All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people."

Any person who has an interest which may be adversely impacted by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request must be in writing.

More information about the Army Corps public comment period can be found at [www.stoplandfill.com/library2.htm#FedWet](http://www.stoplandfill.com/library2.htm#FedWet)

Direct questions concerning this application to Dr. Tom Pluto at 814-235-0574.

Written comments concerning Federal Wetlands should be sent to:  
District Engineer  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Attn: Dr. Tom Pluto  
State College Field Office  
1631 South Atherton Street, Suite 102  
State College, PA 16801

Copy DEP with any wetlands comments you send to U.S. Army Corps. The state's §105 Wetlands Encroachment application is still under review. Don't forget to put "Resource Recovery Landfill" in the subject line for DEP:

Rich Adams, Northcentral Region Water Management Program  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
208 West Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701  
phone: 570-327-3636

**(3) Send comments concerning the RRLF to DEP as soon as possible--** and keep sending them! There are no limits on letters. PPC has already sent several documents. Having trouble focusing on a single topic? PPC has copies of their documents on site. Add to or expand on one of the areas they've outlined in "PPC II" (available at [www.stoplandfill.com/HBA/061220\\_PPCII\\_Final.pdf](http://www.stoplandfill.com/HBA/061220_PPCII_Final.pdf)).

PPC has been reassured, in writing, by DEP that the public can continue to send comments: each will be considered-- but the earlier DEP gets comments, the better!

Even though the application is currently "suspended" by DEP due to uncertainty about the proposed I-80 interchange, in essence, this lengthens the time available for individuals to comment. It is imperative that DEP hear from citizens.

General Comments about the RRLF Application should be sent to:  
Dave Garg, P.E., Facilities Manager  
Williamsport Regional Office DEP  
208 West Third Street, Suite 101  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Note: Please include Resource Recovery Landfill in the subject line.

Visit [www.stoplandfill.com](http://www.stoplandfill.com) for details, more information and updates concerning the RRLF. PPC has travelled to Williamsport to review the DEP files so you don't have to. Many key documents from the municipal solid waste application and wetlands encroachment permit (Section 105) can be found on the "File Review" page ([www.stoplandfill.com/library2.htm](http://www.stoplandfill.com/library2.htm)).

If you can't find what you need to make informed comment, ask. Chances are PPC has it, and can send you a copy:

**People Protecting Communities**  
**PO Box 38**  
**Clarence, PA 16829**  
**<http://www.stoplandfill.com>**  
**E-mail: [catnab@peoplepc.com](mailto:catnab@peoplepc.com)**

## YOUR FARMER *(Continued)*

*from page 3)*

sold through CSA shares, some are available by order.

We continue to work to make things increasingly convenient and equitable for farmers and customers alike. If you'd like to join us, contact me or visit our website,

[www.groundworkfarms.com](http://www.groundworkfarms.com).

### Looking for Sources of Local Foods?

#### GroundWork Farms CSA and Buying Club

814-349-8915

[nell@groundworkfarms.com](mailto:nell@groundworkfarms.com)

[www.groundworkfarms.com](http://www.groundworkfarms.com)

#### Full Circle Farms CSA

814-364-2885

[www.fullcirclefarms.com](http://www.fullcirclefarms.com)

#### Tait Farm CSA

814-466-2755

[info@taitfarmfoods.com](mailto:info@taitfarmfoods.com)

[www.taitfarmfoods.com](http://www.taitfarmfoods.com)

#### Village Acres CSA

717-436-9477

[info@villageacresfarm.com](mailto:info@villageacresfarm.com)

[villageacresfarm.com](http://villageacresfarm.com)

#### Millheim Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 9:00—1:00, May—October  
American Legion, Route 45

#### Downtown State College Farmers' Market

Fridays, 11:30—5:30, June—  
November  
Locust Lane

#### Boalsburg Farmers' Market

Tuesdays, 2:00—6:00, May—October  
Military Museum Grounds

#### Stone Soup Market

1011 East College Ave.

814.234.3135

[Stonesoup4pa@yahoo.com](mailto:Stonesoup4pa@yahoo.com)

[www.stonesoupmarket.org](http://www.stonesoupmarket.org)

# PLANT TREES TO CURB GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE

The large-scale planting of trees and other highly productive ecosystems could offset one-third of the annual U.S. carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, according to a new report. The costs of sequestering 500 tons of carbon per year ranges from \$30 to \$90 per ton, according to "The Cost of U.S. Forest-based Carbon Sequestration," published by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change ([pewclimate.org](http://pewclimate.org)). These costs compare favorably with estimated costs of other options, including switching from fossil fuels or improving energy efficiency. "We need to consider the full range of solutions - and that includes carbon storage in forests," said Eileen Claussen, the center's president. "This report shows that large-scale, forest-based sequestration can be a cost-effective tool which should be considered seriously by policymakers," she said.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP:

### ◆ The Moshannon Group needs a Program Chair.

The Program Chair would work with the Executive Committee to identify guest speakers, films, or other presentations for Public Presentations that the Moshannon Group would hold 4-6 times per year. The Program Chair would contact speakers, set up the date and reserve the space (currently Schlow Centre Region Library Community Room), and work to get the word out (we currently have someone who will work with the Program Chair to do this).

### ◆ We also need a Tabling Coordinator.

**Why Table?** Having an information table at events gives us a great chance to meet concerned citizens who are more likely to share our values and be willing to take an action to help protect our environment. Also, being at popular local events exposes our name and message to the general public.

We need a person who will coordinate and update our display, assemble the information and handouts, and work with the interested Excom and other Moshannon Group members who agree to staff the table.

Contact Gary Thornbloom if you can help us out: 353-3466; [bearknob@verizon.net](mailto:bearknob@verizon.net)

## Sierra Club Radio

a weekly broadcast featuring  
interviews, commentary,  
green lifestyle tips,  
plus advice from Mic Green.

Listen online or subscribe to  
Sierra Club Radio podcast.

[www.sierraclub.org/radio](http://www.sierraclub.org/radio)





**MOSHANNON GROUP**

P.O. BOX 513

STATE COLLEGE, PA. 16804

**Non-Profit Organization**

**U.S. Postage Paid**

**State College, PA**

**Permit No. 154**

# Moshannon Group Directory

*\*members of the Executive Committee*

Chair &Newsletter	*Gary Thornbloom	353-3466	bearknob@verizon.net
Vice Chair , Website &Outings	*Ben Cramer	404-1120	doomsdayer520@yahoo.com
Treasurer, Energy	Bill Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
Secretary, Political	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@penn.com
Programs	*Ronn Brouman	867-0624	ronnb@adelphia.net
Conservation	*Ron Johnson	355-5434	cavenkenu@wmconnect.com
Endangered Species/Wildlife	*Stan Kotala		ccwiba@keyconn.net
Agriculture, Env Education	Hilary Vida	371-3277	
Chapter Delegate	*Chalandra Bryant		cb842001@yahoo.com
Fundraising (Calendars)	Paula Thornbloom	353-3466	pthornbloom@cdfc.org
Membership	Ev Kepler	342-1251	kep@highstream.net
Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		Vogelsong1@aol.com
Intern Position Available	Position Available		

**Check our website for the most current additional outings & information**

<http://pennsylvania.sierraclub.org/moshannon/>



# APRIL 29 & 30, 2007

STATE COLLEGE, PA

TWO NIGHTS

DIFFERENT FILMS EACH NIGHT

## Membership

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to Sierra Club

Mastercard  Visa Exp Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

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	
REGULAR	<input type="checkbox"/> \$39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$47
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"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
STUDENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32
LIMITED INCOME	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24	<input type="checkbox"/> \$32

F94Q [W 411] -1  **SIERRA CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892  
**Sierra Club**  
P.O. Box 52968, Boulder, CO, 80322-2968