



SIERRA CLUB
FOUNDED 1892

MOSHANNON GROUP NEWS

SIERRA CLUB MOSHANNON GROUP

December 2011

Issue 4



Community Rights/Fracking Ban Approved: 72% YES Vote

- by Peter Buckland

Groundswell opened our region's eyes to the power of the people. On November 8th, after about five months of consistent work by Groundswell, State College voters overwhelmingly passed a referendum for a Community Bill of Rights and Fracking Ban. It was the first referendum in State College's history, the first popular



Groundswell, Occupy PSU, and Moshannon Group members working together to support the Community Rights/Fracking Ban

referendum in our nation for community and environmental rights, and the only referendum to ban fracking in the nation. Why? How? What does it mean?

When I look around, I see people fed up with corporatist government neglecting common people. At the state level, we have cascades of bad news on natural gas drilling issues. Whether I want a reasonable impact fee or a moratorium on new gas drilling, I find almost nothing from the state legislature, DEP, or Governor Corbett to laud. People are sick and exploited, and forest and riparian systems are being carved up and desecrated. If we live in a commonwealth, where is the protection

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Moshannon Group Winter Party Friday, January 27, 5 PM

Moshannon Group members and non-members are welcome!

Pot luck dinner - bring a dish to share! Dinner at 6PM

Tableware and beverages will be provided.

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

An opportunity to discuss conservation, issues, and outings. Acoustic music by John and Christine - visit our website for a link to their songs - come and sing along!

Looping DVD of places we have visited.

Calendar

**ALL ARE WELCOME!
WINTER PARTY!**

Friday January 27, 5PM Friends Meeting House, 611 East Prospect Avenue, State College. -- **Potluck Dinner.** Join us for an evening to meet Moshannon Group members and their friends. Potluck dinner at 6PM. See Page 1 and website for additional details, as well as how to include your photographs at the Party on Page 2.

OUTINGS

December 17, Saturday: Holiday Hike Around the Lake - Dr. Stan Kotala will lead a 6-mile hike around Canoe Lake. Meet at the Canoe Creek State Park beach pavilion at noon. Contact Dr. Stan Kotala at 946-8840 ccwiba@keyconn.net for more information.

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

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

Brouman *continued from page 4*

I respectfully submit my name as a candidate for another term as an Ex Com member and ask for your vote.

Kotala *continued from page 4*

first step to conservation is appreciation of wild places. This is why I love giving people an opportunity to appreciate nature by leading outings and sharing my passion for the outdoors. I hope to be able to serve on the Moshannon Group ExCom and continue to share the values of exploring, enjoying, and protecting our natural lands.

Thornbloom *continued from page 4*

Thank you for the opportunity to have been part of the Moshannon Group leadership for the past 12 years. I ask for your vote and for your support so that I may continue to work with the Moshannon Group to explore, to enjoy, and - most of all today - to protect our part of the world, Pennsylvania.

Include Your Photographs at the Winter Party

During dinner, we will be showing a looping dvd of nature photography by Moshannon Group members. If you have any photos that you would like included in the slideshow, please email them, along with your name and a short description (such as place they were taken, etc) to Helena Kotala at hdk5018@psu.edu

Pesticide Spraying on Porter Road?

At one of the public meetings on the Spring Creek Canyon issue, someone mentioned something about pesticide spraying on Porter Road. If you are the person who mentioned this or you have any idea what they were referring to, please contact Ronn Brouman at ronnb@comcast.net or (814) 867-0624.



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet



**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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Exp. Date ____/____/____
Signature _____

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 F94Q W 4110 1

Marcellus Protest 2011: We are Heard

by Jessica Buckland

On November 18, 2011 Pennsylvanians from across the state joined forces and voices to call for a stop to the irresponsible Marcellus Shale drilling practices. Marcellus Protest 2011 was organized by Mike Brock of Elk County CARES - along with the Moshannon Group and twelve additional groups - as a response to industry-sponsored Marcellus Summit 2011.

The protestors gathered at noon on the steps of Old Main on the Penn State Campus where Peter Buckland emceed the event introducing speakers and rallying the crowd. Speakers included Braden Crooks of Groundswell, Barb Jarmoska of Responsible Drilling Alliance, Nathan Sooy of Gas Truth of Central Pennsylvania, Jeff Schmidt of Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter, and Pittsburgh city councilman Doug Shields. Ed McDade entertained the crowd with music.

The Old Main event culminated with the delivery of a letter to Penn State president Rodney Erickson addressing concerns related to Penn State's relationship with the drilling industry. The letter states: "Recently it has come to light that Penn State University requested and received an exemption from the Commonwealth's 2008 Right to Know Law. This is in regards to contracts they've entered into for corporate-sponsored research for a number of oil and natural gas corporations. As this institution receives millions of our taxpayer dollars every year, we feel it is our right to know for whom, and for how much, Penn State is conducting this research." For full text of the letter please visit: <http://marcellusprotest2011.org>.

At 1:30pm, protesters brought their voices to the Penn State Conference Center, addressing industry at their 2011 summit. Holding signs and pacing the sidewalks, protesters chanted and

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Jeff Schmidt, PA Sierra Club Director addresses the rally.



We are heard!

72% YES Vote

for the common good? It is time to take stands through our political system.

Braden Crooks, Groundswell PA's founder, attended a Community and Environmental Legal Defense Fund meeting last spring. He came back to town with the idea to get a Community Bill of Rights and Fracking Ban on the ballot in State College. Drafted by CELDF's Ben Price, the Bill of Rights recognizes the sovereignty of the people, the people's right to clean air, clean water, a sustainable energy future, and the environment's rights as a thing of intrinsic value. Like Ecuador's constitutional amendment that grants rights to nature, the community bill of rights conceives of ecosystems as more than property and resources. They are themselves. How beautiful. With the fracking ban attached the people exercised their rights and responsibilities to one another and nature. Lest you wonder if the State College voters really embraced such a "fringe" idea, they voted 72% to 28% with almost 2,800 votes cast. I suspect the landslide came about because the Moshannon Group provided instrumental support for messaging and contacting voters. Our group made an enormous difference.

We are Heard



We are heard!

commingled, attempting to make a presence and disrupt at least some of the proceedings. Ed McDade led everyone in "This Land is Your Land." Peter Buckland encouraged crowd members to speak as they felt moved. Seamus McGraw, author of *The End of Country*, addressed how the public's trust in private companies has changed over time. Dr. Jeffrey Kurland spoke from his heart, comparing the work of Marcellus protesters to the work done in the 60s to end the Vietnam war and to organizing done early in the 20th century to form unions. Barb Jarmoska shared that there will be approximately 20 drilling sites within view of her home in the next few years. Iris Marie Bloom of Protecting Our Waters spoke passionately on the need for a drilling moratorium. Other crowd members addressed issues of water contamination, wildlife, and general environmental responsibility.

Overall, Marcellus Protest 2011 was deemed a success. The two major objectives were met: 1) The letter to President Erickson was delivered with loud support and 2) the industry participants at Marcellus Summit 2011 could not ignore the voices and faces of those who picketed at their sponsored

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What does it mean? People understand Pennsylvania gas drilling is out of control and "We the people" can do something. Democracy is alive in central Pennsylvania, however gridlocked the politicians are in Harrisburg and Washington. People like Braden Crooks, the Groundswell team, and others know how to organize, do the work, and move our part of the world toward sustainability.

Margaret Mead wrote the famous adage about small groups of people changing the world for the better. Recently, I've worried that large groups of apathetic people will let small groups of wicked people change the world. Well, the people of State College can now exercise rights to invoke precautionary measures regarding potentially dangerous technologies, to incentivize clean energy investment by the borough government, or to enhance green spaces.

I think people in State College have understood Barry Commoner's First Law of Ecology: "Everything is connected to everything else." The sovereign people have seen that healthy people need a clean economy and thriving natural systems. In coming years I suspect more groundswells across the world as people decide we need to rejuvenate and regenerate.

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We are heard!

Moshannon Group Executive Committee Candidate Statements and Ballot

- Ronn Brouman -

I moved to State College back in 1994 to pursue my MBA at Penn State. Upon graduation, I joined a computer-aided engineering software company called Remcom, as their marketing director, where I worked for 11 years. I am currently serving as marketing and sales director for an IT services company called Flashpoint.

I have served as an Ex Com member of the Sierra Club Moshannon Group (SCMG) since 2002, and as the coordinator and emcee for the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour for the last 8 years. We conduct this event as a fund-raiser and to increase the knowledge and awareness of the Sierra Club Moshannon Group and of the environmental and conservation issues that we are working on. We have built an increasingly loyal audience over these years and raised funds which have provided support for some of our activities.

In my tenure as an Ex Com member, the issues that I have worked on have included the I-99 acid runoff, the Rush Township landfill, the Spring Creek Canyon, and Marcellus shale fracking. I have also attended a number of renewable energy conferences and trade shows, and have worked to call attention to the value of these energy sources.

If I am reelected to the Ex Com, I will continue to work on the Rush Township landfill and the Marcellus shale fracking issues. I will also be on the lookout for any other conservation issues that I feel are critical, and I will suggest that the SCMG consider working on these issues.

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- Helena Kotala -

I was raised to love and cherish the outdoors and nature, and I have continued that interest into my adult life. I have been actively involved in the Moshannon Group of the Sierra Club for the past two years, serving as Outings Co-Chair since fall 2009

and leading several outings per year. I also write the On The Trail column which appears in the Centre Daily Times every 3 months. Previously, I also served as newsletter editor for the Juniata Valley Audubon Society, based in Altoona.

I am currently an undergraduate student at Penn State, earning a B.S. in Geography. I have been a member of Penn State Altoona Eco-Action, as well as vice-president of the Penn State Altoona Outdoor Adventures Club and an active member of the Penn State Outings Club. In 2010-2011, I spent 8 months living in Kiel, Germany, where I studied coastal geography and experienced a much more eco-centric culture's ideas about environmental preservation.

I am interested in the conservation of natural lands, and I believe that the

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- Gary Thornbloom -

My passion for the outdoors, and a willingness to share that with others is what led me to becoming involved with the Moshannon Group. It has never taken much to push me from exploring and enjoying to working to protect our woods, waters, and air. Marcellus Shale gas drilling threatens all of this.

The legacy of coal, Three Mile Island, and the clear cutting of our forests were all terrible, but I see Marcellus Shale gas drilling as the greatest environmental threat that Pennsylvania has ever faced. It cannot be done in a safe way; it cannot be done without turning rural Pennsylvania and our State Forests into industrial zones of sacrifice. I will push for both the Pennsylvania Chapter and for the National Sierra Club to call for banning Marcellus Shale (and all deep shale) gas drilling.

By allowing corporate business plans to include extreme energy - and that would include all unconventional fossil fuels, such as oil shale and shale natural gas - irresponsible corporations are enabling our addiction to fossil fuel to continue. We need a national energy policy that gets us off fossil fuels - that is the only hope for stopping short of the tipping point where human induced climate change will occur.

Marcellus Shale gas drilling will shred our landscape and will lock us into extreme energy for the next century - that is the corporate plan. Extreme energy is a local threat, a state threat, a national threat, and a world wide threat. We need to stop the corporate push for extreme energy.

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*****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 2, 2012**. Mail to **Elections, Sierra Club Moshannon Group, P.O. Box 513, State College, PA 16804**.

___ Ronn Brouman

___ Helena Kotala

___ Gary Thornbloom

_____ 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.



Moshannon Group
 P.O. Box 513
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Moshannon Group Directory

**Executive Committee members*

Chair, Conservation, Newsletter	*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@verizon.net
Secretary, Political, Chapter Delegate	*Judy Tanner	542-8519	billtann@verizon.net
Website	*Michele Barbin	387-4509	mlb10@verizon.net
Banff Coordinator	*Ronn Brouman	867-0624	ronnb@comcast.net
Tabling Coordinator Alternate Chapter Delegate	*Lynne Heritage	355-8323	llheritage@comcast.net
Endangered Species/Wildlife, Outings	*Stan Kotala	946-8840	ccwiba@keyconn.net
Fundraising, Calendars	Paula Thornbloom	353-3466	pthornbloom@cdfc.org
Programs	Randy Earhart	466-7414	randy_earhart@yahoo.com
Publicity	Dee Vogelsong		vogelsong100@yahoo.com

**Development of Natural Gas from Shales:
Some Myths and Realities**

If you missed Professor Ingraffea's talk on May 10, you missed a great talk!

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 for \$1. We will have them wherever we have a table. They will be available at the Winter Party. We have distributed over 400 copies!

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.