

## Mountain View

The proposed Belleayre Resort at Catskill Park has begun to draw notice beyond the villages of Pine Hills and Fleischmanns. Located on either side of the state's Belleayre Mountain Ski Center and in the heart of the state's Catskill Forest Preserve, the mega-development would radically alter the landscape. One group of local residents, the Catskill Heritage Alliance, has already announced its opposition to the project, while most local politicians seem to be in favor. Already, project developer Dean Gitter has scaled back his plan from three golf courses to two. But there are still hotels, homes, retail stores, roads, water supply and sewage treatment facilities, and a host of other components to this project that must be studied.

The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will head up the review of the project's environmental impacts. Some state environmental groups, like the Adirondack Mountain Club (ADK) and the New York/New Jersey Trails Conference, have entered the process by posing a series of questions that should be addressed by state and local officials in a draft environmental impact statement. Of particular concern to the two organizations is a proposed golf course/hotel complex on Belleayre Ridge, located to the east of the ski center. "We have strong concerns that the 150-room summit lodge, a golf course, 140 other lodging facilities, and other appurtenant structures including parking lots, outbuildings and a fire station are not appropriate and environmentally compatible with the Belleayre mountain ridgeline," Neil F. Woodworth, counsel to the two environmental groups, wrote in a recent letter to the DEC.

The Belleayre Ridge project would be built on forested lands at elevations from 2000 to 2700 feet. Although there is a flat area along the spine of the ridge, where most of the building would take place, the terrain drops off steeply and the soils are prone to erosion. There is also concern about the impact of pesticide, fungicide and herbicide use, especially on the proposed golf course and resort lawns. Runoff from the resort could threaten the Esopus Creek, an important recreational and fishing stream, and a part of the New York City watershed. For more information, contact ADK at 518-449-3870. The Catskill Heritage Alliance can be reached at 845-254-4872. ★

## On the Alert

■ **Missing Link:** The Office of State Parks is considering purchasing property owned by Roger Gouldstone that would increase the protection of open space around Long Island Sound. Obtaining the 26 acres of nearly pristine coastal watershed buffer land would also be an important step toward forming a link between two State parks: Sunken Meadow State Park (to which it would be annexed) and the new Nissequogue River State Park. Write NYS Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro in support of her efforts to obtain this property. Send letters to: NYS Office of Parks, Empire State Plaza, Agency Bldg. 1, Albany, NY 12238. For more information, contact Guy Jacob, Long Island Sierra Club Coastal Resources, at 516-823-9828, email: GuyJ206703@aol.com, or visit: [www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ny/longisland/index.html](http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/ny/longisland/index.html).

■ **GE's PCB blitzkrieg:** General Electric (GE) has recently launched a massive public relations media blitz targeting Upper Hudson communities. It's all part of the company's campaign to intimidate the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as it considers what to do about toxic PCB contaminants the company dumped in the river long ago. Numerous newspaper, radio and television ads highlight anti-dredging resolutions passed by various local governments, many over three years ago. GE is also asking its allies in Congress to insert language into the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that could stall cleanup efforts in the Hudson and the Great Lakes for years. Environmental Advocates has joined with other groups, including Clearwater, Scenic Hudson and the Sierra Club to form Friends of a Clean River. Call the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge your Representative to oppose any changes to the WRDA. For more details, call David Higby, at 518-462-5526 ext. 239.

■ **Fuel For Thought:** In May, the EPA proposed new rules to slash smog-forming nitrogen oxides by 95 percent, diesel particulates by 90 percent, and sulfur levels in diesel fuel by 97 percent. The EPA estimates that these pollution cuts will be equal to taking 13 million trucks

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New York State Senate  
★ Albany, NY 12247  
518.455.2800

New York State Assembly  
★ Albany, NY 12248  
518.455.4100

off the road. The oil industry says this is unnecessary and expensive, even though EPA calculations show that the rules will cost less than four cents per gallon of fuel. The EPA is accepting written comments on the proposed rules through August 14th. Write US EPA, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory, 2000 Traverwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48105, Attn: Margaret Borushko. Call the Natural Resources Defense Council at 212-727-2700, or visit: [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org) for more information.

■ **Roadless Wonders:** The National Forest Service manages approximately 190 million acres of forest lands throughout the country. About half of this land has already been harmed by mining, logging, and road building. The Clinton Administration has proposed rules that will prohibit new roads in the largest tracts (5,000 acres or more) in those relatively untouched areas still left. Congressional Republican leaders are seeking to delay this process until after the November election. Call the Congressional Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and insist that the rule-making process be allowed to proceed uninterrupted. For more information from the Forest Service, visit: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>.

# The Month Ahead



## August

**3:** *Protecting Your Family From Lead*, panel discussion with Dede Schade. Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., Brooklyn. 7:30PM. Free. Call 718-622-0560. Also 8/10.

**5:** *Explore the Estuary*, a hands-on exploration of the Hudson River estuary from Caven Point Beach. Liberty State Park's Interpretive Center, Jersey City. 10:00AM-12:00PM. Free. Registration required. Contact: Erin Connolly at 201-915-3409.

**11-13:** *Feeding the Soil*, Northeast Organic Farming Association's 26th Annual Summer Conference. 150 workshops on organic farming and gardening, sustainable living, environmental and political action and more. Children's conference, concurrent with adult workshops. 411 Sheldon Road, Barre, MA. Call 978-355-2853.

**12:** *A Day in the Country*, sponsored by the Western NY Land Conservancy. Day includes a Wet Art Sale, potluck dinner, music and more. Olmsted Camp, 12820 Benton Rd, Sardinia (near Buffalo). \$15. Call Emily Oprea at 716-496-7561.

**13, 20, 27:** Guided nature hikes sponsored by the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve. Each hike has a different environmental

focus. 13: phytoplankton in living and fossil communities; 20: biodiversity; 27: Web-based data management at biological field stations. Eldridge Research Center, Pond Hill Rd., Rensselaerville. 2:00PM. Call 518-797-3440.

**13-20:** Cycling the Eric Canal Bike Tour. New York Parks and Conservation Association's fully supported Buffalo to Albany bicycle tour along the historic Erie Canal. 8-day and 2-day ride options. Visit: [www.nypca.org/canaltour](http://www.nypca.org/canaltour), or call 518-434-1583.

**16:** Walking tours of Governors Island, offered by Regional Plan Association (RPA) and the General Services Administration. Tour includes a 1.5 mile walk. Depart from the Battery Maritime Bldg. Coast Guard waiting room (just north of the Staten Island Ferry Terminal at the foot of Whitehall and South Streets in Manhattan). Heavy rain cancels tour. 10:00AM-12:00PM. Call RPA: 212-253-2727 x393. Also 9/13 and 10/18.

**18-22:** *The Summit on the 2nd Generation of Nukes*, Nuclear Free Northeast Action Camp. Southern Vermont. Call Citizens Awareness Network at 315-422-4924. (See FYI.)

**26-27:** Hudson Valley/Eastern NY Community Supported Agriculture Farm Open House. Visit any one of 20 farms in 9 counties. Free. Call Tracy Frisch, Regional Farm & Food Project, 518-426-9331, or Martha Cheo, 914-256-9316.

## September

**10:** Community Trail Day. Enjoy hikes and hay rides to a rarely seen waterfall on the new Tech Park Trail, music, vendors and more. Rensselaer Technology Park. Contact Jim Moore at 518-283-5753, or email: [Tptrail@hotmail.com](mailto:Tptrail@hotmail.com).

**16:** New York State Beach Cleanup, sponsored by American Littoral Society. Call Barbara Cohen at 718-471-2166. (See FYI.)

**19-21:** *Pollution Prevention in the Next Century*, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Pollution Prevention Unit's 13th Annual Pollution Prevention Conference. Radisson Plaza, The Hotel Syracuse, Syracuse. Fees vary. Call Dottie O'Hare at 518-457-2553, or email: [dxohare@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:dxohare@gw.dec.state.ny.us).

**24:** *Long Island Naturally*, Starflower Experience's annual environmental expo. Sweet Hollow Hall, West Hills County Park, Melville. Call 516-938-6152, or email: [StarflExp@aol.com](mailto:StarflExp@aol.com).

## Save the Date! ★

**November 13:** *The 2000 Advocate Awards: Celebrating the Many Shades of Green*. Join Environmental Advocates as we honor Dr. Philip Landrigan, Richard Ottinger and Majora Carter. Fifth Avenue Ballroom, NYC. Call 518-462-5526 ext. 230. (See FYI.)

## For Your Information



**Getting Littoral:** The American Littoral Society is gearing up for its annual New York State Beach Cleanup. On Saturday, September 16 volunteers, led by Beach Captains, will collect and record what litters a site, and clean a section of a lake, river, bay, sound or ocean. Last year, over 9,000 volunteers cleaned up 318 beaches in New York. To volunteer or organize a cleanup in your area, contact Barbara Cohen at 718-471-2166, email: [alsbeach@aol.com](mailto:alsbeach@aol.com), or visit: [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

**Great Report:** Citizens' Environmental Coalition (CEC) recently published an 89-page report, *Human Health & Environmental Impacts from Great Lakes Pollution in New York*, about pollution problems in New York's 26-county Great Lakes Basin Area (from Buffalo to Syracuse, including the St. Lawrence Valley). The report includes maps, graphs and charts on pollution, health and environmental impacts of toxic exposures, and a summary of pollution reduction initiatives. The publication is available for \$10.00 from CEC, 33 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12210. Call CEC at 518-462-5527, or email: [cecanne@igc.org](mailto:cecanne@igc.org) for more information.

**Shades of Green:** Environmental Advocates will be hosting the *2000 Advocate Awards: Celebrating the Many Shades of Green* on Monday, November 13. The gala, emceed by actress Blythe Danner, will be held at the Fifth Avenue Ballroom in NYC at 5:30PM. This year's honorees are Dr. Philip Landrigan, Director, Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Center for Children's Health and Chairman, Department of Community Medicine; Richard Ottinger, Dean Emeritus, Pace University School of Law; and Majora Carter, Associate Director of Community Restoration at The Point Community Development Corporation, in the Bronx. Call 518-462-5526 ext. 230 for more information.

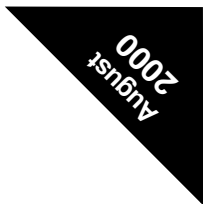
**Generation Nuke:** *The Summit on the 2nd Generation of Nukes*, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service and Citizens Awareness Network's annual Nuclear Free Northeast Action Camp for activists and organizers. This year's gathering, August 18-22 in southern Vermont, includes two days of workshops and a Shut Vermont Yankee demonstration on Aug. 21 at the nuclear plant's offices in Brattleboro. A \$20 contribution is suggested, plus \$8/day for meals. Call Tim Judson at 315-422-4924, or visit: [www.nukebusters.org](http://www.nukebusters.org) or [www.nirs.org](http://www.nirs.org) for more information.

## Activists' Corner

**Clearing the Air:** With deregulation of the electric power market, several new power plants are proposed for western Queens, an area that already has three generating stations. Since these new plants are unlikely to replace existing, dirtier plants and will likely exacerbate existing pollution problems, Anthony Gigantiello, Jr. formed the Coalition Helping Organize a Kleaner Environment (CHOKe). The group's mission is to ensure that no new power plants are built unless their operation is coupled with the elimination of existing generators and/or the installation of pollution-reducing equipment.

In May, a CHOKe rally drew nearly 400 participants. CHOKe has also been working with the Natural Resources Defense Council to build support for the Clean Energy Development Act, introduced by Assemblyman Paul Tonko in the State Legislature this past session.

Write CHOKe at 33-60 21st St., Long Island City, NY 11106, or call 718-274-4767, or visit: [www.chokequeens.com](http://www.chokequeens.com).



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