

Save the Pine Bush

May Activities

05/18 • 33 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12210 • email pinebush@mac.com • phone 518-462-0891 • www.savethepinebush.org

Vegetarian/Vegan Dinner Wednesday, May 16, 2018, 6:00 p.m.

Dan Van Riper

from albanyweblog.com will speak about

The Proposed Sewage Treatment Plant in Lincoln Park

The City of Albany is proposing to put an automated sewage treatment plant in Lincoln Park, ruining the ravine in the park that was once a tourist attraction. The plant, officially known as the Beaver Creek Screening and Disinfection Facility will cost \$45 million.

Dan will discuss how the proposed plant will work, the location of the plant, how this will affect the Hudson River, the issue of the combined sewage and storm water overflow. He will show photos of the park and postcards of what the ravine and park looked like 100 years ago. Dan has published many articles on his blog, albanyweblog.com, regarding sewer issues in Albany and the Big C pipe.

At the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY (people with cars can park in the lot near the door). All-you-can-eat vegetarian and vegan lasagna dinner with gluten-free options, garlic bread, salad and delicious desserts. Only \$12 for adults, \$6 for students, and \$2 for children. People who make reservations are served first. For reservations, please leave a message for Rezsine Adams at 518-462-0891 or email pinebush@mac.com.

Interested people are welcome to attend the program beginning at 7:00 for which there is no charge.

May Hike

In search of the Karner Blue Butterfly and a Yonderful Luncheon Saturday May 19 at 9:30 AM

Meet At: Madison Avenue Pinelands — the very end of Washington Avenue Extension
(for directions, enter 42.717935, -73.879913 into google maps)

Leader: Hugh Johnson • **For More Information:** 239rosewood@gmail.com, (518) 588-6708

Hugh Johnson will lead the Saturday May 19th Hike in the Pine Bush. Hopefully there will be signs of wild blue lupine and maybe even a few Karner Blue Butterflies. He has yet to see one.

We will listen to all the wonderful birds, as this will be close to the peak of the mating season for many. Perhaps we will spot a few birds, coyotes, or a colorful snake.

This hike will start at 9:30 AM at the Madison Avenue Pinelands (NOT the Discovery Center). Just take Washington Extension all the way to its western end. Cross the light at Rt. 155. The road will become Madison at this point. Go past the water tower and park at the end of the road. We will start at the newly built fence.

We will tackle the Yellow, White and Red Trails to the “Great Dune”, then do the Blue Trail, heading back to the Red then White Trail to the Parking Lot. It will be around a 4 mile hike but we could make

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it a little shorter if necessary.

After all of this hiking, we should all work up a good appetite and head to Yonder Farms for some nutritional soups, sandwiches and homemade desserts!

Thunderstorms, downpours, high winds or a significant threat of thunderstorms will call off the hike. Trust me, I am a meteorologist!

Send me an email (239rosewood@gmail.com) if you have any questions, concerns or have interest in attending. If you send me an email, I will give you my personalized weather report! Remember, I do not control the weather but forecast it! Be sure to bring tick repellent along! Hope to see lots of you there. — *Hugh Johnson*

The hike is free and open to everyone!

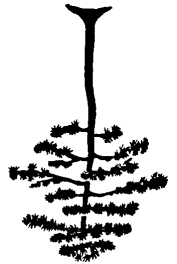


April 23, 2018 Cuomo Walk the Talk Climate March, see article below, photo by Erik Mc Gregor

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A Project of the Social Justice Center
33 Central Avenue
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Earth Day Actions in Albany NY

by Grace Nichols

Earth Day Season began with a Teach-In by the Black Caucus of PEF (Public Employees Federation) at the Albany Public Library (on April 16th) about the environmental injustice done to the Sheridan Hollow community in Albany, NY. Sheridan Hollow is named for its location down a ravine that's across the street from the State Capitol, centered along Sheridan Avenue. It also has a history of being Albany's energy producer, having begun producing energy by burning coal at the 79 Sheridan Avenue Plant in 1911.

Thus began Mert Simpson (Albany County Legislator) giving a history and context of the current plan to outfit the site with two new fracked gas turbines which would be online constantly, burn more fuel, and produce more emissions. It turns out that in its century long history, this site has burned coal, oil, natural gas, garbage (incineration) and fracked gas for steam. It has been the subject of successful lawsuits to try to compensate the community for the outbreaks of asthma, COPD, cancer and other environmentally linked conditions.

Mert Simpson describes Sheridan Hollow's position as a testimony to "energy segregation" in Albany between those who produce energy and those who demand that energy.

Keith Schue, a technical advisor to Sheridan Hollow Alliance for Renewable Energy (SHARE) gave the technical details of the plan the community opposes; George Benson of the NAACP gave a good talk about the position of the African-American community with respect to environmental crime and Jay Egg joined us remotely to give us a vision of geothermal replacing dirty energy infrastructure. Finally, Mark Dunlea, of the Green Legal and Education Fund, educated workers and the community about divestiture from fossil fuels, announcing that trillions of dollars has been removed from the fossil fuel

economy through his five years of work on the issue. PEF is invited to participate in pension fund divestment.

Save the Pine Bush donated funds to provide food for the event and environmentalists, union members and Sheridan Hollow Community members all were in attendance. We are looking forward to hearing more from PEF on what labor will do to protect workers and residents from these proposed turbines.

While there were too many wonderful Earth Day events to count, the day after Earth Day (Monday, April 23rd) was extremely moving. 2000 marchers from all over the state gathered at the Sheridan Hollow Plant and marched to the Capital chanting "Oh-ho Cuomo, Walk the Talk; the wisdom in the Rivers cannot be bought; Oh-ho Cuomo, Walk the Talk, the Power of the People cannot be stopped." Cuomo was beseeched to come up with a plan to transition the state to 100 percent renewable energy as soon as possible while also demanding to stop subjecting Sheridan Hollow, Wawayanda (CPV plant), and Dover, NY (Cricket Valley Energy Center) to fracked gas infrastructure. The people are united in wanting New York State to stop burning the very fuel it will not permit to be mined in NYS because of its dangerousness.

At the end of that glorious unity with busloads of support coming in from Rochester, Buffalo, New York City and beyond, all committed to ending environmental injustice -- there was a soulful action win which 55 people, including our own dear friends Mark Dunlea, Howie Hawkins, Kim Fraczek and Jeanette (a kayaktivist with PAUSE), were arrested for blocking the hallway outside Cuomo's office. While local press gave little news coverage to this amazing display of good organizing, choreographed action, theatre and unity, 350.org and stations like WHMT are reporting on what we did, letting the international community know that fossil fuel resistance is growing in New York State.