

Save the Pine Bush

October/November Newsletter

Oct/Nov 14 No. 122 • 33 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12210 • email pinebush@mac.com • phone 518-462-0891 • web <http://www.savethepinebush.org> • Circ. 1000

Vegetarian/Vegan Lasagna Dinner Wednesday October 15, 6:00 p.m.

Chris Hawver

Executive Director of the Albany Pine Bush Management Commission

The Pine Bush

Chris Hawver will speak about the current status of the Pine Bush preserve, activities of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission, current scientific studies being conducted in the Pine Bush and the status of acquiring more land for the Pine Bush Preserve. Most importantly, Chris will talk about the recent National Natural Landmark designation that the Pine Bush received as a "National Natural Landmark" and how this designation will further help in efforts to expand the preserve.

At the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY (people with cars can park in the lot near the door). All-the-vegetarian-and-vegan-lasagna-you-can-eat, garden salad, garlic bread and homemade pies. 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 Rezsina Adams at 462-0891 or email pinebush@mac.com. **Get It While It's Hot! From now on, we will start serving dinner promptly at 6:00.** Of course, we will be delighted to serve you whenever you get here as we always have. We greatly appreciate your attendance whenever you arrive.

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

October Pine Bush Hike Saturday, October 25, 2014 at 9 AM

Meet at: Pine Bush Discovery Center Parking Lot, East side of New Karner Rd. (Route 155) opposite "T" with Old State Rd., Albany, NY;

Leader: Claire Nolan • For More Information: John Wolcott -465-8930

There is nothing like the beauty of the Pine Bush in the fall. Join Claire Nolan and she leads a hike to show all the glories of the Pine Bush this time of year!

Please note: It is important wear appropriate protective clothing for the danger of ticks. Bring deer or insect repellent to spray on you before beginning the walk. Check carefully for ticks right after the walk and again as soon as you get home. We have discovered that these ticks are subject to transmit a lesser known disease called ehrlichiosis. We want everyone to be safe as you enjoy the outdoors!

www.savethepinebush.org

Why is the Green Party challenging the Governor?

Theresa Portelli Speaks to SPB

by Tom Ellis

ALBANY, NY: Theresa Portelli, Green Party candidate for NYS Comptroller, spoke at the August 13 SPB dinner about Why is the Green Party challenging the Governor? Theresa said she was born in Brooklyn and her parents came from Ireland. She worked as a counselor at a teen jail in NYC for ten years, was elected to the Albany city school board for a term, retired three years ago, was a PEF member, and now works as a Hospice volunteer. She said the Green Party reflects her interests.

Greens, she said, are a universal party in more than 100 nations; Greens favor social and economic justice. She finds it sad that one can swim in the Hudson River both north and south of Albany but not in the capital region.

She and fellow Green Party candidates are

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Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy Speaks about the Environment and Legislation

by Tom Ellis

ALBANY, NY: Democrat Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy spoke at the September 17 SPB dinner about Environmental Issues in this Election. Carol Waterman introduced her saying Ms. Fahy opposes casinos anywhere within her district - the 109th. Fahy said there was much success during 2014 including an oil train safety bonding bill that passed in the Assembly but failed in the Senate despite having a Republican sponsor. She will introduce it again in 2015. She said the state government is very restrained in its legal ability to regulate trains and train tracks.

She is a member of the NYS Caucus of Environmental Legislators formed in 2014 to lobby Congress.

Ms. Fahy favors bike lanes and protected

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Assemblywoman Fahy, continued from page 1

bike lanes, lives in Albany, rides a bike but is nervous about night riding, and said Central Avenue is very dangerous for bikers. She rides to work when she can and favors the Madison Avenue bike lanes initiative. She said where protected bike lanes exist, local retailers have additional customers.

Speaking about conservation easements, she said Bethlehem recently did a comprehensive reassessment, the town is good on smart Growth initiatives, and has a great farmers market. She worked with the town supervisor to draft legislation recently signed into law by Governor Cuomo allowing Bethlehem farmers to obtain tax abatements if they agree to protect their land from development for 15 or more years.

Ms. Fahy said the capital region economic development council is considering a proposal that would provide a building Troy could use year-round for farmers markets.

John Wolcott said he favors a steady state economy as a way to limit pollution growth. He added that economic growth in Albany ignores cultural resources. To a question from Tom Heckman asking if there is any to do economic development without providing tax breaks, Ms. Fahy said she is very concerned about how various government compete with each other in offering tax breaks to developers, and we are in a race to the bottom with such policies. She mentioned an initiative from Hilda Spitzer called the "I Love New York Program" whose purpose was to try to retain new college graduates from moving to other states.

Don Rittner said he favors the NYS Historic Tax credits that facilitate the rehabilitation of buildings and neighborhoods. He also appreciates the 30 percent tax break available to film makers who make movies in NYS. Ms. Fahy said she opposed the tax refund many New Yorkers with children and incomes above \$40,000 will soon receive.

Mark Schaeffer said we can live better dematerializing our economy; he discussed climate change saying he favors energy efficiency and renewables, building retrofits, and halting fossil fuel development.

Regarding the Safe Act, she said she supported it despite disliking the process used to enact it.; she said NYS is one of the few states to address gun issues.

Tim Truscott said the NYS navigation laws and regs have not been updated since 1999 and many shippers pay no fees to use NYS waters. Ms. Fahy said it is a big problem that current state law limits the state oil spill fund to only \$25 million, far below what a major spill would cost to re-mediate.

She expressed alarm over an incident in Menands when an ambulance could not get to a woman who had a heat attack because a long oil train was blocking intersections.

Theresa Portelli, continued from page 1

challenging Governor Andrew Cuomo and his slate for numerous reasons, one being his attempts to raid the Clean Water Fund to finance construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge replacement, an inappropriate use of funds supposed to be used for Clean Water. Another Green plank is opposition to hydrofracking. She asked why should we allow the destruction of our land and water so someone else can benefit and only financially. Organic farmers, she said, will flee the state if fracking begins. She said many suspect Cuomo will approve fracking after the election. "What will be able to do then?" she asked. Greens also oppose the transport of vast quantities crude oil through our communities now occurring; she said this it is very dangerous and people have been killed elsewhere.

Ms. Portelli identified numerous parts of her platform. These include increased revenue sharing from the state to local governments, equitable school funding, retaining the stock transfer tax that is now immediately rebated, divestment from fossil fuels and private prisons, progressive tax and budget policies, delivering a prospective to pension recipients, establishing a pension advisory committee, establishment of a state bank to avoid Wall Street fees. Theresa is also a criminal justice reform advocate, favoring downsizing courts and prisons, and removing drug use cases from the criminal justice system.

During the Q&A she said fracking chemicals need not be disclosed in most states, insisted we must organize to block fracking in NY, and said, "We can't treat Mother Earth like this. She's not going to like it. Demand a seat at the table. This is do or die time for fracking."

John Wolcott asked if she had any recommendations to make alternative energy more economical for people. Theresa mentioned the successful Solarize Troy project and hopes too see a similar one in Albany in 2015. John said, "The more we invest in it the more economical it becomes." Teresa said, "Let's look for real solutions...We need more creative thinking."

Regarding the lengthy oil trains that pass through the capital region every day, she doubts if there is any safe equipment or if the tracks are adequate. She said, Cuomo could declare a moratorium and ban oil trains in New York State. Why doesn't he do it?" Speaking about climate change, she said, "We live on one planet. Corporations do not own it. Live simply so others can simply live."

Sally's Recycling Corner:

Top Things to Recycle

from <http://science.howstuffworks.com>

If you're anything like the people at HowStuffWorks, then odds are good you've already gone through several of these today. You're probably finishing off another one right now. Drawing a blank? I'm talking about the ubiquitous aluminum can. Sometimes touted as a recycling success story, aluminum cans are not only the most frequently recycled product, but also the most profitable and the most energy efficient.

The recycling of aluminum, which is made from bauxite ore, is a closed-loop process, meaning that no new materials are introduced along the way. Aluminum is infinitely recyclable: Cans can be recycled over and over again without degrading. Because of this efficiency, more than two-thirds of all the aluminum ever produced is still in use today [source: Aluminum Now]. So the next time you're feeling lazy and the recycling bin seems so much farther away than the garbage can, you might want to think about the following:

Recycling aluminum prevents the need to mine for ore to create new aluminum. It requires 4 tons of ore to create 1 ton of aluminum. Recycling aluminum cans takes 95 percent less energy than creating new ones. The energy it takes to produce one can could produce 20 recycled cans. The energy saved from recycling one aluminum can could power a 100-watt light bulb for four hours or a television for three hours [sources: Can Manufacturers Institute, Russell].

Not all recyclable products deserve the bragging rights that aluminum does, but some materials come close.

Steel: another recyclable metal made mainly from mined ore, requires 60 percent less energy to recycle than it does to make anew [source: Economist]. Recycling one ton of steel prevents the mining of 2,500 pounds (1,134 kilograms) of iron ore, 1,400 pounds (635 kilograms) of coal and 120 pounds (54 kilograms) of limestone [source: Scottsdale].

Plastic: usually downcycled, meaning it is recycled into something of lesser value like fleece or lumber, but requires 70 percent less energy to recycle than to produce from virgin materials [source: Economist]. And while some people argue that recycling plastic is a lost cause because of its tendency to weaken during reprocessing, manufacturing plastic from new materials requires the messy business of mining for oil and natural gas. Even if plastic can only be recycled once, that's one time that oil and natural gas can be saved.

History Uncovered

Cartographer John Wolcott pinpoints the location of an important 1614 Dutch trading post

Reprinted from Metroland —by Ann Morrow on September 18, 2014—

“The most important thing now is to excavate it,” said John Wolcott, pointing to a map projected on the wall behind him. The longtime historical researcher, archeologist, and cartographer was referring to Fort Nassau, the 1614 fur trading post built by Dutch mariners near today’s Port of Albany. The fort was one of the earliest European outposts in North America.

The success of the fort, which was used by both the Dutch and their Indian trading partners, was pivotal to the development of the province of New Netherlands—which means to New York state, and especially, its capital city. And it goes beyond that, said Wolcott: “Fort Nassau is very significant to American, Dutch, and Indian history.”

During his lecture at the Albany Public Library on Wednesday (Sept. 10), Wolcott illustrated his discovery earlier this year of the exact location of the long-lost fort, which he places toward the northern end of the Kenwood Rail Yard. Built 400 years ago on Castle Island, and flooded out after a few years (the island was later dredged and altered beyond recognition), the fort was surrounded by a moat, and also, as Wolcott discovered just last week, a road that ran through an Indian vegetable field.

Wolcott is confident that evidence of the fort could be found during an excavation, with the possibilities ranging from scattered shards to intact features, with a good chance that there is a substantial remnant of the storehouse, and

perhaps parts of the defensive outer wall.

Unlike the little orange fort symbol onscreen at the library, Fort Nassau was not crenellated. It had gun ports but not bastions, said Wolcott. It may have been constructed from horizontal squared logs, and was roughly 60 square feet. Other than that, not a lot is known about the trading post that induced the powerful commercial establishments of the Netherlands to invest in the wilderness that became Albany.

After decades of cartographic sleuthing, Wolcott located the site by comparing the 1614 map by navigator Adrienne Block—regarded as being “amazingly accurate considering the limitations of the instruments of the time”—with a 1680s drawing he found in a rare book and an 1863 Coast Guard survey image, and matching-up the dimensions. “Charts and maps are like archeological layers,” he said. The discovery was reported in several Dutch publications, including *De Telegraaf*, Amsterdam’s largest-circulation newspaper.

Wolcott has done archeology research across the continent and has worked for the Smithsonian Institute and the New York State Museum. A lifelong resident of Arbor Hill, he first became curious about the fort as a child growing up in the South End.

In the early 1970s, Wolcott discovered the correct location of Fort Orange, which was confirmed by artifacts unearthed during a brief archeology dig before the site was buried under

1-787. Wolcott and his colleague, local historian Don Rittner, are hoping that history will not repeat itself, as the Fort Nassau site is on land owned by the Fortune 500 energy supply company Global Partners. The fort got a lucky break when Global changed the location for its planned boiler plant, shortly after Wolcott’s announcement of his discovery. However, the archeologist remains concerned by Global tankers backing over the site for parking, since any excavation project would have to have approval from the company.

Exploration into the fort would not only add to the knowledge of Albany and New York state history, he said, but would also contribute to an understanding of the relationship between arriving Europeans and the region’s indigenous peoples: “In the lack of written records, you can read the archeological strata and artifacts.”

The site is located near a small park, and if any remains were found to confirm it, Wolcott said, the fort’s potential for heritage tourism would be tremendous.

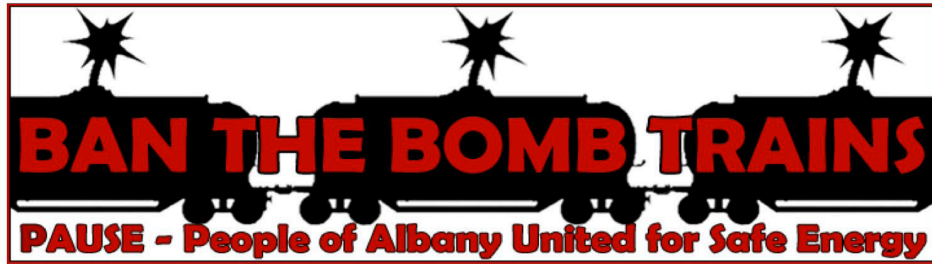
Burlington, continued from page 4

renewable energy. The state has declared a goal of having renewable resources provide 90% of the energy before the year 2050. Residents are so supportive of this effort that utility companies are going out of their way to accommodate alternative energy to their customers.

In truth, Burlington does rely on some fossil fuels for energy when the renewable resources aren’t readily available – sometimes the wind is too weak to generate much power, for example. To cover these times, they will purchase energy created with non-renewable resources to provide the city with electricity. When the wind is strong, however, Burlington will trade the excess energy to other towns to make up for its deficits. Overall, Burlington energy authorities explain, the city sells more of its own (clean) energy than it buys from other communities.

For this reason, some environmentalists say that Burlington’s “100%” rate is a bit of stretch and deserves an asterisk next to it. Still, an asterisk is better than the effort that most American cities have put in thus far. By turning its attention to cultivating energy from water, wind and biomass, Burlington is showing the rest of the country that renewable energy is not only possible, it’s affordable. As the rest of Vermont begins to follow suit, hopefully other states will catch on as well.

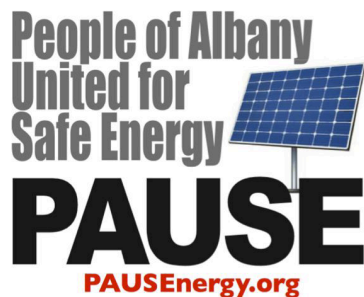
Monday, September 22 was declared John Wolcott Day in the City of Albany by Mayor Kathy Sheehan on the occasion of his 82nd birthday. John has contributed greatly to the city through his archeological findings and support of the environment



Protest Rally

*Tuesday, October 21st from 11:30 - 12:15
outside the DEC at 625 Broadway, Albany*

**To protest the permitting of Bakken crude
oil and filthy Tar Sands through Albany
posing Imminent Hazard to the community
and the environment.**



**For more info contact Sandy
at ssteub@gmail.com
or JUST SHOW UP :)**

Burlington, Vermont is Now 100%

*Powered by Renewable Energy
from www.care2.com*

Burlington, Vermont, already considered to be one of the United States's most environmentally progressive cities, has added another line to its impressive green resume. Just recently, the city finalized its transition to relying 100% on renewable resources for its energy.

Burlington is Vermont's large city, though that in itself is no big feat – the city has a population of just 42,000. Then again, very few communities of even this size have managed to disassociate themselves from fossil fuels. In order to adequately tackle climate change, cities – big and small – need to prioritize finding and utilizing alternative energy solutions.

Burlington had expressed a desire to commit to 100% renewable energy for more than a decade, but it became a real possibility when analysts discovered that it was not only a smart environmental choice, but financially viable, too. In the long run, both the city and residents will not be paying more for clean energy than they were when buying fossil fuels.

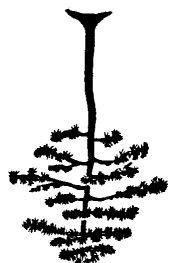
The 100% mark was made possible when the Burlington Electric Department bought hydroelectric technology stationed on the Winooski River near Burlington's border. The power created by water supplements the city's existing wind technologies, as well as a biomass facility that harvests energy from leftover woodchips supplied by the region's logging industry.

Vermont on the whole, however, intends to follow Burlington's lead in adopting more

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