



# Save the Pine Bush

## March/April Newsletter

Mar/Apr 17 No. 135 • 33 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12210 • email pinebush@mac.com • phone 518-462-0891 • web <http://www.savethepinebush.org> • Circ. 600

### Vegetarian/Vegan Dinner Wednesday, March 15, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

# Hugh Johnson

*will speak about*

## Climate Change and the National Weather Service

Hugh Johnson worked over twenty years in the Albany National Weather Service office as a Meteorological Forecaster. He will discuss his perspective on the future of the National Weather Service. He will also add “food for thought” regarding Climate Change and how it could impact the Pine Bush as well as many other facets of our daily lives.

**At the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 85 Chestnut Street** (people with cars can park in the lot near the door). All-you-can-eat lasagna dinner, with vegetarian and vegan options, salad, garlic bread 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 Rezsins Adams at 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.

### Save the Pine Bush March Hike

**In Celebration of the Equinox and all the wonders of  
our planetary homeland and in support of all working to protect it.**

**Sunday Afternoon, March 19, 2017 at 2:00 pm**

Meet at: Pine Bush Discovery Center parking lot, east side of Route 155, opposite Old State Road.

For GPS - 195 New Karner Road, Albany NY 12205

Leader: Claire Nolan • For More Information: 518-465-8930

Claire, who has explored and learned so much about the Pine for so many years even well before the founding of Save the Pine Bush is an ideal, very cheerful and upbeat, enthusiastic leader. We hope for good moderately warm early Spring weather. But with all of the changing climates and uncertain times; be prepared on this hike as well as elsewhere and earthwise. No advanced notice necessary just show up!

For more info: ask John at 518-465-8930. Note: Please wear appropriate protective clothing for the danger of ticks, bring deer or insect repellent to use before beginning the walk.

The ski or hike is free and open to the public. Bring your friends!

### There would be no Pine Bush Today without Save the Pine Bush and Rezsins Adams

*by Lynne Jackson*

Albany, NY: Chris Hawver, Executive Director of the Albany Pine Bush Management Commission, spoke at our February 2017 Save the Pine Bush dinner. Chris began his presentation with a really sweet tribute to Rezsins Adams. Chris said that when he first started with the Albany Pine Bush Preserve commission that he was afraid of Save the Pine Bush, and Chris thought save the Pine Bush was mean. But, he said Rezsins was always so nice to him. Chris said that it was a great honor for him to be asked to speak at the dinner where Save the Pine Bush was honoring Rezsins for her 90th birthday.

Chris was very clear he said “the Commission would not be here without Save the Pine Bush. Break it down further, there would be no protected Pine Bush without Rezsins Adams.” He then gave Rezsins a Karner blue butterfly patch

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### Kim Fraczek Speaks about the Sane Energy Project and Mapping Pipelines

*by Tom Ellis*

Albany, NY: Kim Fraczek, Co-Director of the Sane Energy Project spoke on “Gas Infrastructure — The Big Picture” at the January 18 SPB dinner. She is very enthusiastic opinionated, and optimistic about blocking construction of many of the proposed natural gas pipelines in New York. She displayed an interactive, online map of all the gas infrastructure of New York created by Mary Finneran, and said it has now extended to include New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

The map project was started simultaneously with the huge fall 2014 People’s Climate March in New York City. Kim showed a short video about gas and fracking infrastructure in New York that described many of the existing and proposed gas pipelines. She urged New York to “complete the fracking ban” the state enacted several years ago.

Summarizing the industry, she said (1) *continued on page 2*

## *Pine Bush, continued from page 1*

and a Karner blue butterfly pin.

Chris then went on to tell us about what is new in the Pine Bush. Currently, the Commission is working on habitat work such as removing the black locust. The Commission now removes black locust by ripping out the roots and has greatly reduced its reliance on the use of pesticides.

Last year, the Commission conducted only six burns, covering just 50 acres. This is not much, but, given the very dry conditions in 2016, Chris felt 50 acres was pretty good. Since the fire program started in 1991, the Commission has burned 2100 acres. One of the audience members asked about what happens to the animals during controlled Pine Bush burns. Chris responded that the fires are slow moving and the animals have plenty of time to escape.

The Commission is looking at ways to generate more public support for the fires and one of the ways that Chris mentioned was posting signs on prominent roads saying “Pardon our appearance — more Pine Bush coming soon.”

In 2015 scientists at the Commission studied the saw-whet owls. Turns out, these owls use the Pine Bush during their migration. In 2015, scientist caught no owls in the mist nets, but, in 2016 Commission scientists caught 28 owls. These owls get their name from their call, which sounds like a saw blade spinning. The owls migrate from Canada to Albany to the south.

Of course no mention of the Pine Bush would be complete without talking about the Karner Blue. In 2002 Chris said there were about 500 Karner Blue butterflies in the Pine Bush. The federal recovery requires a minimum of 3000 butterflies in order to classify the butterfly as recovered. A large number of butterflies is required to protect the populations from catastrophic events and changes in the environments. Last year, scientists from the Albany Pine Bush Management Commission counted 21,000 butterflies.

Chris described a new, really interesting exploration station at the Discovery Center. It is an interactive sandbox that uses augmented reality. The exhibit shows the topography of the sand dunes using a combination of real sand and video game technology.

Last year, the Pine Bush was included in the Albany Institute’s 50 objects of note for the capital region. This exhibit was shown last year for many months at the Albany Institute in downtown Albany.

In 2016 the Pine Bush was designated a National Heritage Area, which is an important and significant designation.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission has partnered with the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to work on acquiring more land.

Chris said there are currently 3300 protected acres of Pine Bush. The goal of the Commission is to preserve 5380 acres.

Last August, a man walked into Chris’s office and said he wanted to give some land to the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. Because of the collaboration with the Land Conservancy, the Commission was able to accept the land and the deal was closed by December.

The Environmental Protection Fund is extremely important to purchasing land for the Pine Bush. The fund is down \$7 million this year and there is a lot of competition to purchase land for preservation. The Commission itself is partly funded by the EPF.

The Commission collaborates with Friends of Woodlawn to protect the Woodlawn Preserve. Protecting this land is complicated as the preserve is in Schenectady County and the Commission is limited by statute to working in Albany County.

More work needs to be done to protect all of the Pine Bush. But, without SPB, there would be no Pine Bush left today.

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## *Kim Fraczek Speaks continued from page 1*

tive drilling occurs in Pennsylvania, (2) wastes are dumped in landfills or spread along roads in the southern-tier of New York, and (3) pipes extend to the coast where the gas is exported to Europe and Asia where buyers pay much more than in the United States. She said the industry’s national goal is to export gas.

She said over its lifetime, methane is 86 times more climate dangerous than carbon dioxide. She also described some of the many health impacts of gas drilling. A proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) export project for Port Ambrose, NY was defeated. She said Donald Trump wishes to ramp up LNG exports. She said New York will not export LNG. “We defeated Andrew Cuomo and Dean Skelos. We build people power from the bottom up.”

She mentioned the Spectra project that would go under the Hudson River near the Indian Point nuclear station (24 miles north of the Bronx) and said the project review has been illegally segmented. The proposed Kinder Morgan and Constitution pipeline projects (that would have traversed the capital district) were also defeated.

A major problem with the pipelines are the compressor stations located every 30 to 50 miles that push the gas through the pipes. People who live in the immediate vicinity of the stations experience many illnesses including nosebleeds. One such station is in Minisink, Orange County.

Another problem is that electric power stations are being connected to the gas pipelines resulting in electric utilities and their customers financing pipeline costs. Still another problem

is that fracking wastes are sold to farmers as biosolids and spread on farm lands.

Concluding her comments, she said the Sane Energy Project map is free to use and has links to opponents, videos, and local residents. The map is frequently updated, enlarged, and expanded. “The gas industry does not want us to see this information . . . and there are more of us than them and we can win.”

During the Q&A, she said “Dominion is a nasty company,” an LNG port is under construction in Maryland, and pipelines are being expanded in many states. She said Pennsylvania is the heart of the regional gas industry and existing right-of-ways are being used to site larger diameter pipes.

At compressor stations, she said, flared gas is forced out of the infrastructure. Grace Nichols jumped in saying the flared gas contains methane and hundreds of fracking chemicals. Kim showed a video of an infrared camera capturing images of the otherwise invisible gasses. She said “building the [people] networks and resistance is what will defeat Trump.” A woman said “a compressor station in Carlisle [about 40 miles west of Albany] has four or five big stacks.”

Kim said some municipalities including New York City and Westchester County have enacted fracked waste bans. She said former Republican gubernatorial candidate Robert “Rob” Astorino desired to open New York to fracking. She called Astorino “a little rat” and said Trump would find a place for him in his administration.

An Energy Democracy Alliance has been formed, she said, to target the NYS Public Service Commission (PSC); it as many affiliated grassroots groups. She said, “we want a people’s PSC commissioner.”

I asked about the not very transparent New York Renews (NYR) group who had a speaker at a SPB dinner last fall. Kim said NYR is not a front group for the gas industry, her group joined the NYR coalition but may withdraw support, NYR is a “bunch of policy wonks,” NYR has “not been good to our community.” She continued, “NYR is complicated,” it works with many labor unions, it is trying to build a huge coalition, and NYR is on the right track in trying to bring money to low income communities.

She said the PSC Chairwoman Audrey Zibelman “is okay” but the PSC had just approved a pipeline from western NY to New York City that would result in people having their property confiscated. (A few days after the dinner, Zibelman announced her PSC resignation to soon become chief executive of the Australian Energy Market Operator.)

*Sane Energy Interactive Gas Infrastructure website* [youareherenymap.org](http://youareherenymap.org)

## Step up and Advocate for the Styrofoam Ban in Albany County!

Dear Friends & Allies,

Please help get your county legislator to say “yes” to the proposed styrofoam ban law.

1. Fill out this online petition even if you’ve completed a paper or online petition before. Go to: <https://sites.google.com/riverkeeper.org/albanyfoamban/home>. Leave a quick comment. These are powerful!

2. CALL your Albany County legislator - the petition will show you how to find his/her contact info.

This petition is being sent to you by a team of volunteers in partnership with: Riverkeeper, PAUSE, Sierra Club Hudson-Mohawk Group and Environmental Advocates NY. We are fighting misinformation being spread by paid lobbyists

and PR specialists who don’t live in Albany County but are trying to persuade our lawmakers to not sign the ban. They’re hired by the Dart Container Corp, world’s largest maker of styrofoam. Remember, no business will lose money if this law is passed, since a financial hardship waiver is allowed as part of this law.

If you have trouble finding your legislator’s phone #, contact Tina at [tlieberm1@gmail.com](mailto:tlieberm1@gmail.com) or Sandy at [ssteub@gmail.com](mailto:ssteub@gmail.com). Also contact us if you are willing to canvass area businesses and ask them to sign a letter in support of the ban.

3. Save the date. Show up and speak out in favor of the Albany County Styrofoam Ban!

Mon. March 13 and Wed. April 12 - Vote is

likely in April. Legislature meets at the Albany County Courthouse, 6 Lodge St. (next to Albany City Hall, enter around the back on Lodge Street & go up to the 2nd floor). Comment period goes from 6:30 to 7:30 pm but you must sign up to speak at the front of the room before 6:30 pm.

Contact Tina at [tlieberm1@gmail.com](mailto:tlieberm1@gmail.com) or Paul at [tick.paul@gmail.com](mailto:tick.paul@gmail.com) if you want help preparing what to say.

Thank you so much for all of your support so far! Your legislator wants to hear from you on this critical issue! Get his/her contact info via this online petition and CALL ASAP:

<https://sites.google.com/riverkeeper.org/albanyfoamban/home>

## Tell Albany County to ban plastic foam in restaurants!

The Albany County Legislature is considering a ban on single-use plastic foam containers – the kind of containers we receive at many restaurants and food stores, only to throw away soon after, since they are not reusable or recyclable.

Here’s the problem: plastic foam containers are unnecessary, wasteful, and dangerous to public health and the environment.

The impacts to our health from using this waste are profound. This product is made out of polystyrene, which contains styrene made from benzene – a petroleum product. Both chemicals are known to cause cancer. When foods that are oily, acidic, or simply hot (like coffee or chicken wings) are put in these containers, styrene can leach into your food and drink. Styrene is “reasonably anticipated to be a human carcinogen” (2016, US National Toxicology Program of US Dept of Health & Human Services. <https://ntp.niehs.nih.gov/ntp/roc/content/profiles/styrene.pdf>.)

Plastic foam hurts our environment and wildlife, too. It never biodegrades – instead, it just continues to break down until it becomes little white pieces. It’s impossible to clean out of our sewers, rivers and oceans. It poisons the fish and birds who mistake it for food and eat it. Then people eat the fish, and it poisons us too! According to the World Economic Forum, at predicted rates, plastics in the ocean will outweigh fish pound for pound in 2050.

The burden on our landfills is extreme, as an estimated 20 percent of waste is plastic foam. Using paper or locally recyclable products instead of plastic foam may cost a few pennies more, but it’s better for all of us – humans and wildlife.

Who’s already banned foam? 20 municipalities in Massachusetts including Pittsfield, plus Ulster County, Freeport Maine, Washington D.C., Takoma Park MD, Seattle Washington, Los Angeles County, Miami, San Francisco and more! Albany County has already gotten rid of microbeads, and toxins in children’s toys. Let’s continue taking care of people and planet, and get rid of dangerous plastic foam.

For articles and resources on the dangers of polystyrene to people and the environment see here: <http://www.massgreen.org/polystyrene-resources.html>

### ***PAUSE Corrects the Record on the Bank Protest***

Contrary to the comments made by individuals who know not of what they speak, the TD Bank Protest event on February 23rd did not happen as reported by the TU Staff writer.

There were a good 25 enthusiastic supporters at the TD Bank protest, but only those trained in Non Violent Civil Disobedience went inside the bank. Those who did not wish to be arrested left as requested by the police officers when they arrived.

The incident with the officer allegedly being hurt was due to a slippery floor and handcuffs not being attached correctly. No one resisted arrest, no one was assaulted. I was there so I know what actually happened. It is unfortunate that this was reported in this fashion, but that is unfortunately because no one reads news unless there is drama.

Protests are a fundamental right of the citizens of a democratic government. Without protests, the government ceases to be a democracy. Remember this a government OF the people, FOR the people and BY the people. We

are very fortunate to have an excellent Acting Police Chief who understands the importance of our First Amendments rights. This was an act of deliberate civil disobedience. The two who gave of themselves to be arrested and spend a night in jail are caring, socially responsible individuals who are willing to stick their necks out to force Corporate America and our Government to do what is right.

Thank you Craig and Betty. Job well done! These pipelines are a cancer to this planet and must be stopped. Water is Sacred. We need many more people as dedicated to social change as these two upstanding individuals are.

### ***Divest from Fossil Banks Funding Pipelines:***

The brave and dedicated water protectors at Standing Rock have said this is “Just the beginning”. They have let us know that the best thing that all of us can do is to Let our Money Talk. If you have accounts with TD Bank, Wells Fargo, CitiBank, Bank of America and ING, Please consider closing those accounts and opening them in local banks and credit unions which invest in our

local communities. This includes changing credit cards away from the big name banks: Chase, American Express, Bank of America. Credit Unions and local banks have their own credit cards: Adirondack Trust, Berkshire Bank, Trustco Bank which do not fund their profits into fossil fuel projects. Also your investment portfolio can be diversified into socially responsible accounts which do very well and do NOT invest in the fossil fuel industry. Ask your financial advisor about these funds. If they do not advise you to change from traditional investments, change to one who will. I have a small account with Financial Engineers and my adviser is wonderfully receptive and helpful and my investments are doing very well in socially responsible funds.

PAUSE has been organizing TD Bank protests once a month since December at the 125 State Street TD Bank.

Another way you can help is to go to these banks and talk to them. Tell them you are considering their bank for your money and want to know what projects they fund, are they socially

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Proclamation – Monday, February 13, 2017 to be:

### “Rezsins Adams Day”

WHEREAS: Rezsins Adams was born on February 13, 1927, and grew up in the Bronx; and

WHEREAS: Rezsins is an unassuming hero, a woman of small stature who always has a smile on her face. However, she has been at the heart of Albany’s peace and justice movement for decades and was dubbed the “Grande Dame of the local peace and environmental movements,” by the *Times Union* in 2007, and she hasn’t slowed down yet; and

WHEREAS: In her eight decades, she has protested the Vietnam War (and every war since), was jailed for civil disobedience while protesting the Persian Gulf War, worked for civil rights, fought with the anti-nuclear movement, advocated on behalf of striking farm workers, helped protect a unique ecosystem by being one of the forces behind the creation of the Pine Bush Preserve, and has for years fought, in a largely successful attempt, to prevent a dump from being built in the endangered Blue Karner butterfly’s habitat; and

WHEREAS: Rezsins has been a determined voice for the Save the Pine Bush (SPB) efforts since she moved to the Capital Region in 1958. She is a founder and president of SPB and has played an integral part in the dozens of lawsuits over developments in the Pine Bush since the inception of SPB in 1978. The results were the creation of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Management Commission and preservation of thousands of acres of Pine Bush; and

WHEREAS: Advocacy and education efforts led

by Rezsins also resulted in students studying the Pine Bush at the Farnsworth Middle School, and the Pine Bush going from a largely unknown and ignored ecosystem to a place that is common knowledge for people who live in the Albany region; and

WHEREAS: Rezsins doesn’t stop at the advocacy work, she has also cooked all of the lasagna and pies for all of the approximately 450 Save the Pine Bush monthly lasagna dinners since the early 1980s; and

WHEREAS: She has traveled to Washington D.C. protesting things like the inauguration of George W. Bush and the Iraq War and traveled to China in conjunction with her involvement in the U.S. Peoples China Friendship Association; and

WHEREAS: Rezsins was the first dissident Albany County Democratic Committeemember to be elected to the Albany County Democratic Committee in the late 1960s and she is still a Committeemember. She has worked tirelessly to get progressive politicians elected to Albany City Government and worked on many campaigns; and

WHEREAS: For decades, Rezsins volunteered at the Social Justice Center store. She was the backbone of the store and the reason for the doors remaining open. She volunteered for years at the WAMC fund-drive, and at the Tulipfest and helps prepare the breakfast and lunch at the Westminster Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS: Rezsins was quoted saying, “I believe we have to do everything we can to bring about change.” She was married to Ted Adams in 1947. After 64 years of marriage, Ted passed away in 2011. They have two children, Frances and David, and two grandchildren.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathy M. Sheehan, Mayor of the City of Albany, New York do hereby proclaim Monday, February 13, 2017 to be:

### “Rezsins Adams Day”

in the City of Albany, and ask the residents to join me in wishing Rezsins a very happy 90th birthday and thank her for all that she has done for our community and beyond.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Albany, New York to be affixed this 8th day of February, 2017.

*Signed by Kathy Sheehan, Mayor*

### *Divest continued from page 3*

responsible and do they fund the DAPL or Keystone or any other pipeline projects. If we all do this, they will get the message loud and clear. Our current administration obviously has no interest in protecting our clean water and air, so we must prevent the companies who are supporting these projects by not giving them the money to fund them and by publicly pressuring them to do what is right for the Water Protectors and this planet. Check facebook.com/PAUSEnergy/ for event information and to join us.

### *Next Dinner Dates*

**Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
85 Chestnut Street, Albany, NY**

**Wednesday, March 15**

**Wednesday, April 19**

**Wednesday, May 17**

**Wednesday, June 21**

**No dinner in July**

**Wednesday, August 16**

Return Service Requested



Save the Pine Bush  
A Project of the Social Justice Center  
33 Central Avenue  
Albany, NY 12210

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