

SAVE THE DATES: APRIL 25 & 26, 2013

Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group to Host International Great Lakes Champion

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What: 15th Annual Environmental Forum: *Protecting the Great Lakes Forever*
Who: Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group and co-sponsors: FLOW – For Love of Water, Monroe Community College, Rochester Institute of Technology
When: Thursday, April 25, 2013, 5:15 PM – 9 PM and Friday, April 26, 2013 starting 9 AM
Where: Thursday evening: Keynote Address and Environmental Fair at Monroe Community College in Brighton, NY
Friday 9 AM: Workshops at Rochester Institute of Technology in Henrietta, NY

Rochester, NY: Sierra Club - Rochester Regional Group to host “Great Lakes Need Great Friends: Protecting the Great Lakes Forever” with keynote speaker Maude Barlow.

The Rochester Regional Group of the Sierra Club is bringing internationally renowned speaker **Maude Barlow** to Rochester for **15th Annual Environmental Forum**. — The focus of the Forum is the growing movement advocated by Maude Barlow to protect the Great Lakes forever by establishing them as a Public Trust. At last year’s forum, we began a conversation with **Jim Olson of FLOW** about protecting our water as a “common good” for future generations, through the legal and political structure of the Public Trust Doctrine. This year, we’ll continue that conversation in a bigger venue to accommodate the large audience that Maude is sure to bring, and we’ll dive deeper with workshops the day after her keynote address.

The Forum will highlight the growing threats to our precious Great Lakes and begin building community networks to protect and manage them. Already we have seen increased threats to our water including: hydrofracking, invasive species, algal blooms, global climate change and lower lake levels.

Maude Barlow’s visit to Rochester for the Forum is a stop on her U.S. and Canadian tour promoting the plan in her publication, “**Our Great Lakes Commons: A People’s Plan to Protect the Great Lakes Forever**”: (www.canadians.org/water/issues/Great_Lakes/index.html). In addition to chairing the Council of Canadians and the Board of Washington-based Food and Water Watch, Maude has long been known for her crusade to protect fresh water in the Great Lakes region. Maude has written 16 books, including her highly-acclaimed book, “**Blue Covenant: The Global Water Crisis and the Coming Battle for the Right to Water**.”

This is always one of Rochester’s premier environmental events of the year. This year, it highlights Rochester’s future as a Great Lakes City, with an internationally renowned speaker, and a 2nd day of workshops-- you won’t want to miss it!

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