Dr. David Carpenter Reinstated at UAlbany!
by Pete Sheehan

The culmination of an attack by Monsanto against Dr. Carpenter, the founder and long-time director of the Institute for Health and the Environment at the University at Albany and an initial show of non-support of him by the University at Albany ended in March upon his official reinstatement. This unfortunate circumstance actually began in and around May of 2022 but wasn’t known widely until the Times Union ran its article in February of this year. The TU explained that “he was quietly placed on "alternate assignment" nine months ago, a status under which he was instructed to not visit any campuses and to perform his duties from home as the school investigated his extensive work testifying as an expert witness in toxic pollution cases.” This resulting disciplinary action by UAlbany was the result of a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requested in 2022 by a law firm in Missouri that represents Monsanto. It filed its request seeking a numerous records related to Dr. Carpenter’s research at UAlbany, including compensation and other benefits that he or the university have received from his testimony in toxic pollution cases.

It certainly appears that Monsanto is attempting to impugn Dr. Carpenter’s reputation by suggesting that there is something amiss with the financial arrangement Dr. Carpenter has with his compensation received as an expert witness regarding PCBs and other toxics. It is well known that with the consent of top university officials, Carpenter has for two decades arranged for the money he has received for testifying as an expert witness (minus travel expenses) to be funneled back to the university to assist his graduate students, staff and research programs. The funds were simply funneled through the SUNY Research Foundation in a very transparent manner. Although the Foun-
dation has had its share of issues, none of them re-
late to the arrangement that Dr. Carpenter has with
the administration or students. Monsanto has fre-
quently battled Dr. Carpenter when he testified as
an expert in civil actions in which the plaintiffs are
usually alleging they have suffered serious health
consequences due to exposure to toxic substances.
Monsanto has paid billions of dollars through court
verdicts and settlements related to its manufactur-
ing of PCBs and other biochemical products. Nearly
all PCBs in the U.S. were produced by Monsanto
before the chemicals were banned by the U.S. Envi-
ronmental Protection Agency in 1977. In the opin-
ion of many environmental and citizen groups in-
cluding the Sierra Club, this was a blatant attempt
to silence Dr. Carpenter. We are most grateful to
Judith Enck in leading the charge to reinstate Dr.
Carpenter and continue to seek answers from UAl-
bany as to why this done in the first place. More
information regarding this whole situation can be
located at:

Clean Energy Hubs - Leading to a
Cleaner Energy Future by Tina Lieberman

In December 2022, Governor Hochul and
NYSERDA announced the formation of 12 Region-
al Clean Energy Hubs to help all residents, and par-
ticularly underserved communities, participate in
New York’s transition to a clean energy fu-
ture. Whether you’re a homeowner, tenant or land-
lord, there are products and programs to help you
achieve your energy goals and save money. For the
announcement see https://www.governor.ny.gov/
news/governor-hochul-announces-52-million-
awards-regional-clean-energy-hubs-connect-new-
york The Clean Energy Hubs are here to provide
key information about how you can reduce energy
costs, make your home more energy efficient, and
take advantage of a variety of incentives, rebates and
tax credits depending on income eligibility. The
Hubs, along with their Energy Advisors, can help you
find information about programs such as community
solar, energy audits and assessments, heat pumps and
heat pump water heaters, the NYSERDA Empower
Program and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Sierra
Club Hudson Mohawk Group stretches from Colum-
bia County to the Canadian border and the Capital
Region Clean Energy Hub led by the Affordable
Housing Partnership, will be serving the 8 Capital Re-
region counties of Columbia, Greene, Albany, Schenec-
For more information about the programs available,
check out the HeatSmart Capital Region website
where you can enroll and get a free, no obligation en-
ergy assessment from a vetted provider or send an
email to HeatSmart@CapitalDistrictCommunityEnergy.com.

The Adirondack North Country Associa-
tion will be serving the 7 counties of the North Coun-
try Regional Economic Development Council: Clint-
on, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton, Jefferson, Lewis and
St. Lawrence counties. To find out more and talk
with an "Energy Circuit Rider" visit https://
www.adirondack.org/our-
work/clean-
energy/ or call
Erin Griffin, ANCA’s Clean Energy Hub Director at
518-891-6200 X106.

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New York for his cumulative life’s work (validating those of us who referred to him as “Dr. Stone” for many years). In the 1970s, Ward’s extensive sampling, identification, and publicizing the existence of toxic levels of Mirex, a pesticide, in salmon and other fish in Lake Ontario, resulted in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation issuing a ban on consumption of fish caught in the Lake. His identification of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (deer wasting disease) in 2007 was the first confirmed instance of the virus in New York State. Also in 2007, he was a co-author of a paper describing the newly identified white-nose syndrome epidemic in bats.He received an EPA award for his work identifying West Nile virus in New York in 1999, the first identified outbreak in the Western Hemisphere. In 2009 the National Sierra Club awarded Ward its Distinguished Service award for his work with the Atlantic Chapter to identify toxins from Albany’s trash incinerator, and for his years of work identifying the pervasiveness of toxic PCBs in the environment. In making the award, the Club noted, “Ward’s commitment to wildlife and environmental protection, coupled with his willingness to push forward against conflicting corporate and government interests, has garnered him the support and admiration of many of the media, community organizations, and the general public.”

"When Ward sank his teeth into an issue, he was relentless -- if evidence showed the existence of contaminants, he would not let the information be suppressed, whether by industry, or by his bosses at DEC. It was always an education and an inspiration to work with him," said Aaron Mair, former National President of the Sierra Club, and organizer of the effort to close Albany's AN-SWERS incinerator; he later served as volunteer chair of the Club’s 'Clean Up The Hudson River!' campaign. Ward worked with the Sierra Club for more than a decade with the Club’s “Clean Up The Hudson River!” campaign, seeking EPA enforcement of a plan to require the General Electric Corporation to dredge PCB-laden toxic sediment from the Hudson River below GE’s Hudson Falls plant where PCBs had been dumped for decades.

“Not only was he a great scientist, but he played an integral part in raising public awareness about PCB contamination in the Hudson River. His involvement was essential in tracing the pollution from the source to the public impact, drawing a straight line from contamination in fish to the GE discharges in the Upper Hudson River,” stated Chris Ballantyne, former Northeast Regional Director of the Sierra Club. “Ward shone a light on environmental threats long before others could notice them; he gave a science-based voice to nature in times of crisis when few state officials would listen,” Roger Downs, conservation director of the Sierra Club’s Atlantic chapter, said. “His methods were sometimes unconventional, but he always chose to pursue environmental justice first before pointless bureaucracy; the natural world is a better place because of his fearless advocacy.” “While he loved pathology,” Montana Stone said of her father, “his love for life and living creatures was his true inspiration and motivation to better understand diseases and toxins that inextricably affect humans, wildlife and the environment.”

“I’ve spent my life trying to do something about the terrible environmental destruction I saw, most of it done by industries with a lot of power,” Ward said in an interview with The Cobleskill Times-Journal in 2016. Ward went on to say “I wasn’t popular, but I didn’t let that stop me.” “I have been called a loose cannon,” he said, “but I always knew exactly where I was firing.”

(Leadership-cont’d)

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Ward Stone: An Archetypal Environmental Activist  by Roger Gray

Ward Stone, a long-time friend of many Sierra Club members and a staunch Sierra Club supporter, died on February 8, 2023. Author John McPhee once described former Sierra Club executive director David Brower as an “archdruid.” Similarly, Ward Stone was our local arch-environmentalist!

Ward was a Navy veteran and attended the National Naval Medical School in Maryland and served in the Navy in Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. He graduated from Syracuse University with a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by a master’s degree in animal pathology and parasitology. He was hired by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in 1969, as the State Wildlife Pathologist, a position he held for over 40 years. In 2003 Ward was awarded a Doctorate of Science from the State University of (go o to pg.3)